British
Parliamentary
Papers

Colonies
GENERAL

37

SESSION

1899

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
0 1620 00806 867

GOV
DOC
UK1
X8
S45
C53
v.37

GOV PUB

Ex libris
universitatis
albertaensis



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUG 7 1973
DOCUMENTS
LIBRARY



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUG 7 1973
DOCUMENTS
LIBRARY



British

Parliamentary Papers

COLONIES ANNUAL REPORTS

Colonies

General 37

IUP LIBRARY OF FUNDAMENTAL SOURCE BOOKS

RESEARCH UNIT DIRECTOR T F Turley

The IUP Series of British Parliamentary Papers

CHIEF EDITORIAL ADVISORS

Professor P Ford, Professor Emeritus, Southampton University
and Mrs G Ford

CONSULTANT EDITORS

Professor J H Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Southampton University
Professor Oliver MacDonagh, University College, Cork
Christopher Townley, Librarian, University College, Galway
Colman Lyne, National Museum of Canada
Dan O'Keeffe, Librarian, University College, Cork
Professor John W Osborne, Rutgers University, New Jersey

This Series
is published with the active co-operation of
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS SERIES

OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1899

Colonies General

37

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

PRINTER'S NOTE

The Printer wishes to draw attention to the many variations in the graphic quality of this series: broken type, ink set-off, poor impression and background blemishes are to be found in the original copy.

Every effort has been made to minimise these faults and to make the reprint copy as legible as possible.

© *1970*

Irish University Press Shannon Ireland

Microforms

Microfilm, microfiche and other forms of micro-publishing
© Irish University Microforms Shannon Ireland

SBN 7165 1241 6

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The Irish University Press Series of British Parliamentary Papers is a facsimile reproduction. The original documents in this volume have been reproduced by photo-lithography and are unabridged even to the extent of faithfully retaining the printer's imprint.

The contents of this volume have been printed in their entirety by Robert Hogg, Printer to the Irish University Press, Shannon, Ireland.

As a result of the arrangement of the documents in subject sets and of the bringing together in a single book of a number of papers, some volumes in the Irish University Press Series may include the imprints of more than one printer.

This reprint is an enlargement from the original octavo format.

Irish University Press Shannon Ireland
DUBLIN CORK BELFAST LONDON NEW YORK
T M MacGlinchey Publisher
Robert Hogg Printer

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

SIXTY-THREE VOLUMES.

(12.)

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS — *continued.*
COLONIAL REPORTS — *continued.*

Session 1.—7 *February* 1899 —— 9 *August* 1899.
Session 2.—17 *October* 1899 —— 27 *October* 1899.

VOL. LXII.

1899.

2069060

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1899.

SIXTY-THREE VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

TWELFTH VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Paper; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS—*continued.*

[c. 9046.] [c. 9498.] Colonial Reports (Annual)—*continued.*

Labuan:

No. 253. Annual Report on Labuan for 1897. p. 1

Lagos:

No. 232. Annual Report on Lagos for 1897. 9

Leeward Islands:

No. 246. Annual Report on the Leeward Islands for 1897. 19

No. 266. Annual Report on the Leeward Islands for 1898. 39

Malta:

No. 243. Annual Report on Malta for 1897. 79

No. 270. Report on Malta for 1898. 105

Mauritius and Rodrigues:

No. 250. Annual Report on Mauritius and Rodrigues for 1897. 155

Newfoundland:

No. 256. Annual Report on Newfoundland for 1896-97. 197

New Guinea, British:

No. 237. Annual Report on British New Guinea for 1896-97. 209

No. 258. Annual Report on British New Guinea for 1897–98. 257

Niger:

No. 260. Reports on the West African frontier force of the Niger for 1897–98. 341

St. Helena:

No. 240. Annual Report on St. Helena for 1897. 377

No. 265. Report on St. Helena for 1898. 387

St. Lucia :

No. 239. Annual Report on St. Lucia for 1897. p. 405

No. 267. Annual Report on St. Lucia for 1898. 425

St. Vincent :

No. 233. Annual Report on St. Vincent for 1897. 465

Seychelles :

No. 252. Annual Report on Seychelles for 1897. 481

Sierra Leone :

No. 234. Annual Report on Sierra Leone for 1897. 493

No. 273. Report on Sierra Leone for 1898. 517

Solomon Islands, British :

No. 251. Annual Report on the British Solomon Islands for 1897–8. 545

No. 275. Report on the British Solomon Islands for 1898–9. 561

Straits Settlements :

No. 236. Annual Report on the Straits Settlements for 1897. 593

Trinidad and Tobago :

No. 241. Annual Report on Trinidad and Tobago for 1897. 605

No. 272. Report on Trinidad for 1898. 633

Turks and Caicos Islands :

No. 269. Annual Report on the Turks and Caicos Islands for 1898. 685

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

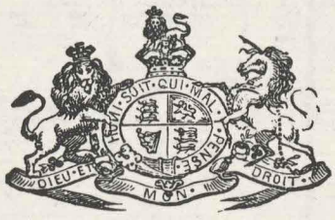
No. 253.

LABUAN.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 221.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December, 1898.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-21.] *Price* ½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 253.

LABUAN.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 221.)

GOVERNOR BEAUFORT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Labuan,

September 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1897.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total amount collected was $55,702.51, while the total expenditure was $49,146.68, showing a surplus of $6,556.

The following table shows the principal sources of revenue and the increase or decrease from the same source in 1896, cents being omitted :—

Source.	Received in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$
Land Revenue	2,247	—	313
Rents, exclusive of land ...	4,785	75	—
Licenses (opium &c.)	29,499	—	331
Customs	3,024	920	—
Postal and Inland Revenue ...	7,059	1,427	—
Port and Harbour Dues	1,970	331	—
Fines and Fees	2,247	—	941

The revenue exceeded that of 1896 by about $700.

Under Expenditure, pensions have increased by $1,366 owing chiefly to difference in exchange. There is a decrease under Public Works and an increase under General Upkeep.

1011*—75—11/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

LABUAN, 1897.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The service and the public sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. F. O. Maxwell, the Acting Resident. He was obliged to take leave on account of ill health, and died while absent from the Colony in August. Mr. G. Hewett was appointed Acting Resident.

CHURCHES.

No church has yet been built to replace that burnt down in 1889.

The school house is used as a chapel. The bishop visits Labuan once a year generally. There is no chaplain.

EDUCATION.

The small school in Victoria built by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was conducted, under the direction of the bishop and the Sandakan chaplain, by a Chinese schoolmaster, but owing to his resignation the school was closed in August. It will be re-opened under an Eurasian master.

The average daily attendance is about seven boys, no girls. The British North Borneo Company contributes $200 per annum to the pay of the schoolmaster.

PUBLIC WORKS.

At the request of Officers Commanding H.M. ships, the rifle range was improved by the construction of better butts and mantlets with a rail running between, by which targets can be run in and out for two firing parties. The range was used during the year, and is most conveniently situated for the fleet, being on the beach within a quarter of a mile of the anchorage. It is perfectly flat and is used up to 1,000 yards..

The long bridge over the swamp at the back of the town was completely renewed : it is 400 feet in length.

LEGISLATION.

The only proclamations of the year were those prohibiting the export of arms and ammunition to Netherlands, India, North Borneo, and Brunei, that relating to neutrality published on account of the war between Turkey and Greece, and that suspending the collection of the duty on salt after the end of the year. Ordinances were also published relating to the duties on spirituous and fermented liquors and wine, and tobacco. The trade in these had been a monopoly which had been sold each year. By the new laws these trades were thrown open, and an import duty was put on spirits, &c., and tobacco. This duty may be collected by the Government. or the collection may be farmed.

The tobacco duty was collected by the Government, while the duties on spirits, &c. were leased for the year. Formerly only one person could import or sell spirits or tobacco ; now anyone can do so on payment of the duty and fees.

TRADE.

There was a large increase in the value of imports and exports as compared with 1896, the total value being :—

—	1896.	1897.	Increase
	$	$	$
Imports	707,749	884,833	177,084
Exports	593,933	653,688	59 755

In imports the principal increases are mostly under foods, drinks, and narcotics. Under raw materials there are also large increases, notably squared timber, gutta-percha, rattans, beeswax, raw and prepared sago ; there are decreases under india-rubber, gum damar and hides.

In exports, raw materials have nearly doubled. Coal has been shipped to the amount of 43,891 tons, against 52,071 tons in 1896, the price of coal averaging from $6 to $8 at the end of the year.

SHIPPING.

Comparative statement for the periods 1895, 1896, and 1897 :—

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1895	135	70,367
1896	183	128,109
1897	235	162,108
Increase over 1896 ...	52	33,999

The number of steamers calling in for bunker coal has materially increased, but the production from the mines of the New Central Borneo Company has slightly decreased, the latter this year amounting to 45,120 tons, against 46,449 tons in 1896.

LABUAN, 1897.

GAOLS AND CRIME.

There was a temporary strike amongst the Chinese stevedores, owing to the action of some of the headmen, but the stoppage of work only lasted about three days. The cases reported to the police numbered 54 as against 53 in 1896, the daily average of prisoners being 21·87 against 8·36 in the preceding year. The increased number is owing to convicts being sent from North Borneo to assist in public works, upkeep and repairs, for which native labour was not available.

HOSPITALS.

341 male patients were admitted during the year and 2 females. Of these 241 were cured, 19 relieved, 22 absconded, and 60 died, the balance remaining in hospital at end of year. There was no epidemic disease during the year.

POSTAL.

44,917 letters and cards and 18,613 newspapers passed through the post office, as against 33,119 letters and 18,642 newspapers in 1896. Stamps were sold to the value of $8,881.37 compared with $8,043.55 in 1896, the difference being occasioned by the increase in the postal traffic. The value of orders issued and paid was $16,568.28 against $12,531 in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

Her Majesty's Jubilee was held on the 22nd and 23rd of June. His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak visited Labuan on the 2nd July. An earthquake, on the 21st September, caused an upheaval between Labuan and the mainland. A mud island was formed, with exhalations of gas. The shock was felt only in certain localities.

The following of Her Majesty's ships visited the Colony during the year :—

April 1st ...	...	H.M.S. "Rainbow."
„ 22nd ...	...	„ "Pique."
May 3rd ...	...	„ "Pigmy."
„ 25th ...	...	„ "Iphigenia."
December 31st	...	„ "Plover."

I have &c.,

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,

Governor of Labuan and British North Borneo.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 232.

LAGOS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 219.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos	,,
231	Barbados	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 232.

LAGOS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No 219.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR DENTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Lagos,

23rd June, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1897, together with an interesting report on its contents by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. I take this opportunity to reply to your despatch of the 21st April last, and I beg to inform you that the instructions contained in the second paragraph of that communication have been specially noted, and that every endeavour will be made to render the Blue Book and its report as soon after the close of the financial year as is found possible.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Acting-Governor.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1897.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony collected during the year 1897 amounted to £177,420, as against £179,745 in 1896. Taking all the circumstances into account it is impossible to regard this falling off as indicating any serious or permanent retrogression

331*—75—8/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

in the financial position of the Colony. The usual cry of "bad trade" has of course been raised, but under the exceptional conditions prevailing during the year the figures cannot be said to point to anything more than a temporary disturbance. The methods of trading forced (or supposed to be forced) on merchants, speculation, long credit, and advances to irresponsible natives, no doubt have something to do with it; the political disquietude owing to events in the Hinterland something more; and a dry season probably most of all.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during the year under consideration amounted to £182,669, as against £168,445 in 1896, a special outlay of £12,205 in providing a new stern-wheel Government steam yacht being principally responsible for the increase, the "Margaret" having been condemned as unserviceable.

The excess of the Colony's assets over liabilities on December 31st amounted to £60,731.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Savings Bank established in 1886, under Government control, had a total of 716 depositors during the year, the amount to their credit on December 31st being £13,230.

The business of the bank is managed by the Treasurer of the Colony, and interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is allowed on deposits.

It is satisfactory to note that the number of depositors is steadily on the increase, but it must be remembered that most natives of the Colony, especially the women, are born traders, and embark the whole of their available capital in business.

The Bank of British West Africa has a firmly established branch in the Colony, and is of the greatest assistance to the Government.

DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.

There is an armed force known as the Hausa Force, numbering about 844 officers and men of all ranks. This force is intended almost entirely for service up-country, where the endurance and marching powers of the men are of the greatest value. They are armed with Martini-Metford carbines, and the force possesses also five 7-pr. R.M.L. guns, four Maxim guns, two 3-barrel Nordenfelt, one Gatling gun, and four rocket troughs; there is also one 3-pr. quick-firing Nordenfelt on board the Colonial Government stern-wheel steamer "Maud." The total cost of maintenance during 1897 amounted to £23,069. The large

number of out-stations in the interior requiring to be supplied from head-quarters cause the numbers actually stationed in Lagos at any one time to be small, but since 1895, when the force was re-organized, police work is not required of them, all such duties being carried out very efficiently by the civil police. This young force is steadily improving year by year in discipline and activity, and the habitual criminal finds that his profession has to be carried on under increasingly difficult circumstances. It is composed of 382 officers and men of all ranks, and was maintained during the year at a total cost of £11,223. The men in addition to being taught police duties are regularly drilled and taught the use of the Snider rifle, with which they are armed.

Public Works.

The railway, together with the bridges connecting the town of Lagos with Iddo Island and the mainland at Ebute Metta, has been pushed on with all possible speed under the able superintendence of Mr. Gee. At the close of the year upwards of 25 miles of rails were laid, and hopes are expressed that the rail-head may be at Abeokuta by the end of 1898. An Ordinance, authorizing the raising of a further loan of £525,000, has received the Royal assent. The Denton Bridge, joining Iddo Island with the mainland, is rapidly approaching completion.

The new Treasury Buildings, including quarters for the Colonial Treasurer, have been completed, and are now occupied.

A most important work has been undertaken in connection with the demarcation and survey of land in the Colony. The Police Magistrate has been appointed *ex-officio* Commissioner of Lands, offices and a staff assigned to him, and the investigation of titles, with a view to the eviction of squatters and the putting down of encroachments, has been commenced in earnest. Excellent maps are in course of preparation, showing the lands and boundaries of the different owners throughout the town.

The expedition to the interior, mentioned below, forced on the contemplated construction of a telegraph line to Saki, a branch of which has been carried to the Niger at Jebba. The line was laid with extraordinary celerity; the cost of maintenance of such portion of the line as lies within the Colony will be borne by the Colonial Government, and is estimated at £4,513 per annum. It is hoped, however, that this expenditure will be considerably reduced before long, as natives are rapidly being trained to take the place of the non-commissioned officers, Royal Engineers, who have been sent out from England for the purposes of construction and maintenance.

LAGOS. 1897.

Special and increased attention has been given to the important subject of the opening-up and maintenance of roads and waterways, both by the Government and by native chiefs at the instance of the Government. The great improvement that is now going on in means of communication throughout the Colony cannot fail to benefit trade by providing easy access to markets.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports from all countries into Lagos during the year 1897 amounted to £770,510, as against £901,474 in 1896. Of this sum, £574,937 represents imports from the United Kingdom, and £165,912 those from Germany. The chief falling off was in cotton and silk goods. There was also a decrease of 5,157 gallons in the total quantity of spirits imported, as compared with the imports for 1896, which will be seen at a glance by reference to the following tabulated statement :—

—	Imported in 1896.	Imported in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
Brandy	430	427	—	3
Cordials	439	1,544	1,105	—
Geneva	442,862	480,610	37,748	—
Rum	776,290	730,694	—	45,596
Whiskey	4,054	5,643	1,589	—
Total ...	1,224,075	1,218,918	40,442	45,599

These figures tend to shew that the doubling of the duty on spirits, which caused a falling off in imports under that head in 1896 amounting to 480,000 gallons, still continues to affect the amounts imported. The large increase in the importation of tobacco, chiefly from Great Britain, is also worthy of attention.

EXPORTS.

As was anticipated, the falling off in the production of rubber, due to the reckless way in which it was collected, has come to pass, the amount shipped in 1897 being 4,458,327 lbs., as against 6,484,365 lbs. in 1896. It is early to talk pessimistically of the "extinction of the industry," inasmuch as the opening up of fresh country to peaceful commerce cannot fail to revive the production. At the same time, the greed and guile of the small minority that collects and adulterates rubber, coupled with the

apathy of the large majority that only looks on, must inevitably deal a severe blow to the trade. Steps are, however, being taken to encourage the native chiefs to have the rubber collected in a thrifty and systematic manner, which, it is hoped, will show good results in the near future.

The export of palm oil also shows a very serious falling off, having decreased from 3,154,333 gallons in 1896 to 1,858,968 gallons in 1897, while that of kernels also shows a decrease. In both cases there can be no doubt that the dryness of the past two seasons was chiefly responsible for the decrease, while the disturbances in the Hinterland may have also had some slight effect. On the other hand, cocoa and coffee are being cultivated with success, and the export bids fair to continue to increase. The Government is also using every means in its power to encourage the cultivation of economic plants.

A new article of export has been taken up in mahogany, the value of the wood having been £6,292 in 1897. There is every reason to hope and expect that this trade will become a rapid success.

NEWSPAPERS.

The Government Gazette is published weekly. 3,000 copies were published during 1897.

There are 3 weekly papers in private hands—the number of copies issued being returned at :—

"The Lagos Weekly Record" ...	31,200
"The Lagos Standard"	27,000
"The Lagos Echo"	20,800

PRISON.

The large and well-appointed prison has been further extended during the year 1897, and is perhaps the finest and best ordered building of its kind on the West Coast of Africa, the sanitary arrangements being excellent.

The total number of commitments in 1897 was 680, a large increase on 1896, when the figures stood at 502. There is no reason, however, to believe that a special criminal wave passed over the Colony during the year, the increase being rather due to the growing efficiency of the police.

Sentenced prisoners are employed on useful work, outdoor and indoor, the principal outdoor employments being the cleaning of the streets, while indoor, book-binding, carpentering, tailoring, basket-making, &c., are carried on. The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to no less than £1,291 8*s.* 7*d.* The mark system is in force, under which remission of sentences may be earned.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of prisoners apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 1,784, as against 1,321 in 1896 and 837 in 1895, the number of summary convictions being 1,015, and convictions in the Superior Court numbering only 31. While these figures may point to the "sinfulness of little sins," it is matter for legitimate congratulation that in a population numbering some 50,000 there should be so marked an absence of grave offences.

POPULATION.

The Census of 1891 remains the only recent estimate of the population of the Colony, namely, 33,000. Probably 50,000 would be nearer the mark now.

The resident European population averages about 250.

The general death-rate is not calculated to re-assure visitors or settlers, being no less than 59 per thousand, as against 19·14 per 1,000 in England. Twenty-three Europeans died during the year, the average age being only 34. Fever, dysentery, and lung diseases are the most fatal ailments. Infant mortality is especially heavy.

EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in the Colony almost entirely through missionary societies of various denominations, as shown by the following figures:—Church of England, 15 schools with 1,744 scholars; Wesleyan Methodists, 8 schools with 776 scholars; Roman Catholics, 8 schools with 706 scholars; the Baptists and United Native African churches having one school each.

There can be no doubt that much remains to be done in the way of education, particularly in the provision of technical instruction. It cannot be too much regretted that in a growing and expanding Colony like Lagos an idea should have taken root that manual labour is not so "respectable" as clerical work in Government and mercantile offices—that the young man in a mechanic's apron, with his fortune in his skilled hands, occupied a lower position in the social scale than the clerk on £24 a year who wears a black coat and starched shirt. It must be recognized as practically impossible to maintain and develop the roads, railways, and resources of the Colony with any chance of financial success under white superintendence alone imported at great expense to face a climate uncongenial, if not absolutely fatal, to Europeans. The future of Lagos rests entirely with the growing boys of the Colony, and, until they and their parents and guardians recognise the dignity of labour as conferring a patent, there is but little chance of the real capabilities of the Colony being brought to light.

LEGISLATION OF THE YEAR.

The Demarcation and Survey Ordinance already alluded to was beyond doubt the most important enactment of 1897. Besides providing for the survey of land and the fixing of boundaries for future reference—which work is in active progress—an attempt was made to put an end to the practice of unlicensed so-called "Surveyors" of trading on the ignorance of natives with only a little less knowledge than themselves. Many hundreds of pounds have been paid for plans not worth the paper on which they were drawn according to the fancy and imagination of unskilled and untaught draughtsmen. In future, surveyors working in the Colony for fee or reward must hold a licence, every facility being offered him of proving his ability to hold it by means of examination, and any infringement of this rule becomes a punishable offence.

The remaining local Ordinances call for no remark.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

794 cases were treated in the Colonial Hospital during the year, including 130 of fever and 104 of injuries and wounds. There were 109 deaths.

In the Contagious Diseases Hospital 68 cases were dealt with, leprosy and small-pox being responsible for 46. There were 10 deaths.

In the four towns of Lagos, Badagry, Leckie, and Epe, 23,270 persons were vaccinated, by far the larger number with success.

There is as yet no lunatic asylum in the Colony. Patients are sent to the lunatic asylum at Kissy in Sierra Leone for treatment at the expense of the Lagos Government.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The year 1897 will be memorable for two events of conspicuous importance to the Colony of Lagos; viz., the brilliant celebration of the completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign, and the despatch of West India and Hausa troops to the "Hinterland" to protect British rights and interests.

His Excellency the Governor, Major H. E. McCallum, R.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on the 23rd of April. The celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession was utilized by him as the occasion for bringing together at head-quarters a representative gathering of native kings and chiefs, collected from all parts of the Colony and Protectorate, that was probably unique in the history of Lagos

LAGOS. 1897.

for numbers and importance. Many distant and widely separated people met at Government House in June last, to find for the first time that they had one interest and sentiment in common—that of allegiance and loyalty to the Queen—and it cannot be doubted that such a gathering of the clans, some of them perhaps not over fond of one another, under one standard, must have a vast and most important effect upon the future of the Colony.

Discussion is still going on as to a feasible scheme for the sanitary reform of Lagos town in connection with water supply and drainage that can be carried out reasonably within the means of the Colony. It will be easily comprehensible that on a malarial island a mile or two long by half a mile broad, with a population of 50,000 souls living on it, and a much larger number of bodies dead and buried in it for many years past, disturbance of the soil is to be avoided by every possible means. No scheme has yet been approved.

The question as to deepening the Bar is always with us, the cost of the only serious schemes being absolutely prohibitive at present. In the future, however, the Colony looks forward to great things. The railway is being rapidly constructed, and it is within the bounds of practical politics to think hopefully of the time when the railway will tap the undeveloped countries in the "Hinterland" of the Colony as well as on the Niger, thereby expanding and developing the Colony and adding to its revenue.

MARK KERR,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

21st June 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 246.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 227.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-14.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basútoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 246.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 227.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Springfield House,

St. Kitts,

9th September, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1897.

2. It will be noticed that with the exception of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, in which Presidencies there was a trifling increase of revenue during the year 1897, when compared with that of 1896, the revenue in the other Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica has considerably fallen off.

3. It is satisfactory to find that in all the Presidencies there has been an increase in the revenues from the Postal Departments, although it is significant of the impoverished condition of the people, that while the total amount of money orders issued in the various post offices of the Colony in the year 1896 was £45,260, it dwindled down, during the year 1897, to £20,191.

4. Proposals have been made recently for a reduction in postal rates, and although a reduction from $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per half ounce for letters to foreign parts to $2d.$ or $1d.$ would probably affect the revenue of the Colony for some little time, my belief is that a reduction in postage rates would eventually result in an increase of correspondence which would give rise to a larger amount of revenue being derived from this source.

656*—75—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

5. Every endeavour has been made to reduce the expenditure of the Colony during the last few years. The expenditure for 1897 was £8,511 less than for 1896, while it was £24,412 less than in 1895.

6. The total population of the Colony is, in so far as an opinion can be formed in the absence of statistics as to emigration and immigration, 138,063, being 10,340 in excess of the population when the last census was taken in 1891.

7. The value of imports into the Colony during 1897 was less by £89,541 than that of the previous year, proving the depression which has prevailed, and which resulted in reduced orders for goods by the merchants generally.

8. The impoverished condition of the people has also told unfavourably in regard to education. The average attendance at the elementary schools and the amount of school fees received have both decreased in 1897, when compared with the year before. But this is not surprising. The compulsory education laws have to be worked with every care and judgment during such a crisis as these Islands have been passing through. I have been credibly informed that in many instances parents lacked not only the means of paying the school fees, but they were utterly unable to provide their children with clothing sufficiently decent for the children to present themselves at school. I was informed of one instance in Nevis where a child was actually refused admittance to the school on this account.

9. So soon as the financial condition of the Colony can allow of it, I would urgently advocate that compulsory education should be free.

10. There are some who recommend the abolition of compulsory education in present circumstances, but this I should be sorry to see.

11. It is the duty of every State to attend to the proper education of its young, and although I should be glad of some further extension of technical education in these Islands, it must be borne in mind that primary education forms the essential foundation upon which education in other directions has to depend.

12. As a proof of the good results of compulsory education, I may state that since it came into force in 1892 the average attendance in primary schools has increased—in Antigua, 56 per cent.; in St. Kitts and Anguilla, 112 per cent.; in Nevis, 88 per cent.; in Dominica, 78 per cent.; and in Montserrat 127 per cent.

13. I concur with the Colonial Secretary that the attitude of the Colony during 1897 was one of despondency.

14. The assistance which has been afforded and which has been promised by the Imperial Government since the beginning of the present year, has done something to inspire hope and confidence for the future, but it is difficult to see how the condition of affairs generally is likely to improve in these Islands, the prosperity of which is almost entirely dependent upon sugar, and must necessarily be so for some time to come, until something is done to render more certain the conditions on which the sugar industry is to be carried on. This, however, would seem impossible so long as the bounty system is allowed to continue.

I have, &c.,

F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

REVENUE.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1897 was £124,768, showing a decrease of £13,892 as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £138,660.

The following return shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the years 1896 and 1897, with the increase or decrease in each case :—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	54,951	46,330	—	8,621
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	49,561	45,247	—	4,314
Dominica	24,904	23,610	—	1,294
Montserrat ...	7,775	7,906	131	—
Virgin Islands ...	1,469	1,675	206	—
Total ...	138,660	124,768	337	14,229

Net decrease £13,892.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

In comparing the detailed statements of Revenue for the year 1897 with those of the previous year, it will be seen that in the Presidency of Antigua there was a decrease under the head of Customs of £5,660 and in St. Kitts-Nevis of £2,058, while under the same head there were in the Presidencies of Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands increases of £1,157, £204, and £310.

Under Internal Revenue (including excise, taxes, licenses, rates and miscellaneous revenue) there occurred decreases as compared with 1896 of £658 in Antigua, of £3,421 in St. Kitts-Nevis, of £2,838 in Dominica, and of £295 in Montserrat, while there was a small increase in the Virgin Islands.

In all the Presidencies there was an increase in the revenue received under the head of Post Office.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure in the various Presidencies was £140,926 as compared with £149,437 in the previous year, thus showing a reduction in the aggregate expenditure of the Colony of £8,511 compared with that of 1896, and of £24,412 as compared with the expenditure of 1895.

The following table shows the expenditure of the various Presidencies composing the Colony during the years 1896 and 1897, with the increase or decrease in each case :—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	57,345	53,417	—	3,928
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	56,501	51,775	—	4,726
Dominica	25,189	24,062	—	1,127
Montserrat ...	8,732	9,895	1,163*	—
Virgin Islands ...	1,670	1,777	107	—
Total ...	149,437	140,926	1,270	9,781

Net decrease £8,511.

* NOTE.—This excess was due to expenditure on repairs of special damages done by the flood of November, 1896.

The largest decrease of expenditure in 1897 occurred under the heads Miscellaneous (a decrease of £3,119), Federal Contribution (decrease of £2,491), and Education (decrease of £1,292).

The following comparative return of the revenue and expenditure of the various Presidencies during the year shows that there was a gross excess of expenditure over revenue of £16,158 :—

Presidency.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£	£
Antigua	46,330	53,417	7,087
St. Kitts-Nevis	45,247	51,775	6,528
Dominica	23,610	24,062	452
Montserrat	7,906	9,895	1,989
Virgin Islands	1,675	1,777	102
Total	124,768	140,926	16,158

Reviewing the expenditure of the Colony for the year 1897, it will be seen that although the actual expenditure was decreased by £8,511, the revenue for the year was £13,892 less than that of the previous year.

To meet these deficiencies Loan Acts in aid of revenue were passed by Antigua and by Montserrat, a similar Ordinance having been passed in the previous year by the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The account of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands remained still overdrawn.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which on 31st December, 1896, stood at £301,221, was increased during the year 1897 to £335,621 by the issue of the loans in aid of revenue referred to above, namely, St. Kitts-Nevis £15,000, Antigua £13,000, and Montserrat £7,000. The amount sanctioned by the Act in Antigua was £20,000, but only £13,000 has been raised.

The following table shows the individual liability of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and

Montserrat, with the amount at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts at the close of 1897 :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua	150,671	14,151
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	89,450	3,776
Dominica	70,900	8,929
Montserrat ...	24,600	538
Total ...	335,621	27,394

POPULATION.

The statistics for the year 1897 show a total for the Colony of 5,244 births, 3,215 deaths, and 489 marriages. The Census of 1891 showed a total population for the Colony of 127,723. From this date up to the 31st December 1897 the total excess of births over deaths has been 10,340, which gives an apparent total of 138,063 as the population at the present date, but this total cannot be considered reliable in the absence of statistics as to emigration and immigration. In consequence of the depressed and impoverished condition of the Colony, many of the younger men have left in search of employment elsewhere during the past year or two.

The following summary shows the population at the close of 1897 (subject, as above stated, to the unrecorded results of emigration and immigration), with the number of births, deaths, and marriages in each Island of the Colony during the past year. It will be seen that there has been in all cases a considerable excess of births over deaths :—

—	Population on 31st December 1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Marriages.
Antigua	37,402	1,457	1,050	407	144
Barbuda	678	39	30	9	1
St. Kitts... ...	32,823	1,342	836	506	126
Nevis	14,659	637	300	337	41
Anguilla ...	4,209	180	53	127	21
Dominica	29,514	882	550	332	82
Montserrat	13,509	527	286	241	49
Virgin Islands	5,269	180	110	70	25
Total	138,063	5,244	3,215	2,029	489

LEGISLATION.

A session of the General Legislative Council was held at Antigua in December 1897, the Council sitting from the 9th to the 18th of that month.

The total number of Acts of the year 1897 was 36, of which, however, 11 were passed by the Council in December 1896, but were not assented to until after the close of that year.

Of these Acts the most important were—

No. 9, "An Act to amend the Leeward Islands Police Act, 1874."

No. 16, "An Act to provide for the recognition in this Colony of probate and letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and in British Possessions."

No. 23, "An Act to amend the law with respect to riots and unlawful assemblies."

No. 25, "An Act to amend the law with respect to malicious injuries to property."

In addition to those enumerated above, Acts were passed reducing the salaries of the Colonial Secretary, of the Judges of the Supreme Court, of the Inspector of Schools, of the Auditor-General, and of the Attorney-General. These reductions will take effect on vacancies occurring in any of these offices.

The Act No. 31 also provided for the appointment of assistants to the Attorney-General to be resident in the Presidencies of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica.

The local legislature of Antigua passed eighteen Acts, of which the most important were the St. Johns City Board Act (which, however, requires considerable amendment, and will be re-introduced in 1898), and the Defence Force Act, by which a Defence Force was established for the Presidency of Antigua.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the following were the most important of the thirteen Ordinances passed :—"An Ordinance to amend the law with respect to the Treasury Department" and the "Land and House Tax Amendment Ordinance."

The local legislature of Dominica passed eight Acts, none of which call for comment.

In Montserrat thirteen Ordinances were passed, of which the most important was the Plymouth Improvement Ordinance.

In the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, laws to prevent the importation of disease among plants were passed. An Act was passed in 1896 by the General Legislature on this subject, but it was held to be *ultra vires*, and the Act was therefore repealed and local enactments were introduced and passed as stated above. Up to the close of the year, however, the local Act for the Presidency of Dominica had not been passed.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Edward Alexander Foster was appointed Auditor-General of the Colony on the 13th April, in succession to Mr. L. J. Bertram. Mr. Foster arrived on the 21st April and assumed duty.

Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Mr. G. O. Nugent, and Mr. G. H. V. Mercier were appointed 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Clerks, respectively, in the office of the Colonial Secretary.

Messrs. George C. Johnson and C. R. Rannie were appointed Audit Clerks in St. Kitts-Nevis and in Dominica, respectively.

Mr. G. C. Faille was appointed 2nd Clerk in the Registrar's Office, Antigua.

Captain G. A. Luscombe was appointed Inspector of the Antigua Division of the Police Force.

Mr. W. J. Essex was appointed Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Rat Island.

Mr. N. Lockhart was appointed Acting Treasurer of St. Kitts on the 30th September.

Mr. W. M. Wigley succeeded Mr. G. G. Kirton (resigned) as 1st Clerk in the Registrar's Office, St. Kitts, and Mr. J. P. Turner received the appointment of 2nd Clerk.

Mr. N. G. Cookman was confirmed in his appointment as Commissioner of the Virgin Islands on the 5th October.

EDUCATION.

The attendance at the Elementary Schools has slightly decreased during the year 1897 as compared with 1896, the numbers on the roll in 1896 being 25,439, and in 1897, 25,022. There is a consequent decrease in the average attendances from 12,894 in 1896 to 12,438 in 1897. The School fees received were £331 14*s.* 9*d.* in 1897, as against £465 0*s.* 11*d.* in 1896. The Government grants paid were respectively £7,240 in 1896 and £7,090 in 1897, while the amount of voluntary contributions received decreased from £934 in 1896 to £532 in 1897.

The total amount expended on education therefore in 1897, comprising school fees, Government grants, and voluntary contributions, was £7,964 17*s.* 6*d.* or £675 13*s.* 0*d.* less than the expenditure of the previous year.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School at Antigua there were at the commencement of the year 160 inmates, including 83 from the other Presidencies, but owing to the necessity for reducing expenditure a number of boys from other islands were withdrawn, and the total number at the close of the year was 100, including 30 from other Presidencies.

The number of inmates of the Girls Training School at Scotts Hill was similarly reduced from 67 to 56, and it was decided, as a measure of economy, to close this School during the year 1898.

As regards Skerretts Farm, which is worked by the boys in connection with the school, the experimental cultivation of a large number of varieties of sugar cane was carried on as in former years, and an exhaustive report on the results obtained was drawn up by Mr. F. Watts, Government Analytical Chemist, and Mr. F. R. Shepherd, the Superintendent of Skerretts School.

The total expenditure on Skerretts Stock Farm and Estate, worked by the boys, was £494 17*s.* 2*d.*, while the receipts from the farm amounted to £359 1*s.* 4*d.*

The estimated value of the stock exceeds £2,000, and the value of the farm in improving the breeds of horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry, has been very considerable. This has been especially the case with the Mysore breed of cattle, imported some years ago from the Government Stock Farm in Trinidad, there being now a considerable number of half-bred Mysore bullocks in the Island.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports during the year 1897 (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony) was £312,657, as against £402,198, being a decrease of £89,541. This is a very serious decrease, which is due to the general depression prevailing and to the consequent reduced orders for goods forwarded by merchants in the Colony.

The following return shows the total value of imports in 1896 and 1897, distinguishing the countries from which the articles were imported, from which it appears that there was a decrease in each case :—

Country whence Imported.	Value of Imports.		1897.	
	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	178,917	133,497	—	45,420
British Colonies	57,949	41,694	—	16,255
United States of America ...	149,982	124,064	—	25,918
Other Foreign Countries ...	15,350	13,402	—	1,948
Total	402,198	312,657	—	89,541

Net decrease, £89,541.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

The internal trade between the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £13,096, as against £14,095 in the previous year.

The table given above shows that, although there was a decrease in the value of imports from all the countries named, yet the decrease in the value of imports from the United Kingdom and from British Colonies was proportionately much greater than in the case of goods imported from the United States of America. This appears curious, inasmuch as a comparison of the figures of 1895 and 1896 shows that there was in the latter year an increase of import trade with the United Kingdom and British Colonies, and a falling off in the trade with America.

The following table gives the aggregate values of the imports for the years 1896 and 1897, made up of the various classes of articles, of which the values are shown in the statement. It will be noticed that the greatest decrease occurs in foodstuffs, in textile manufactured goods, and in other classes of manufactured articles which are not specially enumerated:—

Article.	1896.	1897.	1897.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals...	2,649	979	—	1,670
Food	158,378	132,320	—	26,058
Drinks	13,993	11,443	—	2,550
Narcotics	3,792	3,722	—	70
Raw materials	16,953	9,947	—	7,006
Manufactured Articles:—				
Textile	91,376	67,688	—	23,688
Metal	20,873	16,912	—	3,961
Other Manufactures ...	92,684	69,540	—	23,144
	400,698	312,551	—	88,147
Coin and Bullion	1,500	106	—	1,394
Total	402,198	312,657	—	89,541

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports during the year 1897 (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony) was £328,496 as compared with £316,510 for the year 1896, being an increase of £11,980.

The following return shows the total value of exports during the years 1896 and 1897, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in each case :—

Countries to which Exported.	1896.	1897.	1897.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	44,703	49,582	4,879	—
British Colonies	54,027	38,925	—	15,102
United States of America ...	196,141	223,150	27,009	—
Other Foreign Countries ...	21,639	16,839	—	4,800
Total	316,510	328,496	31,888	19,902

Net increase, £11,986.

The export trade between the various Presidencies amounted to £11,422, as against £14,624 in 1896, showing a decrease of £3,202.

The following return shows the principal exports, with the quantities and values of each respectively, for the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Articles.	1896.		1897	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar ... ... Tons	32,498	228,612	28,555	236,209
Molasses ... ... Pun.	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506
Rum ... ... Gals.	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265
Coffee ... ... Lbs.	38,528	1,280	20,533	722
Cocoa ... ... „	349	12,823	593,680	9,007
Lime and Lime Juice	—	19,240	—	24,514
Total	—	277,892	—	285,223

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at the various Islands of the Colony during the year 1897, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels :—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
Antigua ...	421,880	20,582	—	3,486	421,880	24,068
St. Kitts ... Nevis ... Anguilla ...	441,340	23,528	11,736	15,025	453,076	38,553
Dominica ...	393,840	9,618	1,240	2,762	395,080	12,380
Montserrat ...	214,144	12,503	—	2,068	214,144	14,571
Virgin Islands	—	10,289	—	1,256	—	11,545
Total ...	1,471,204	76,520	12,976	24,597	1,484,180	101,117

Comparing the above figures with those of 1896, it appears that there was in 1897 a decrease of 35,426 tons in steam vessels, and of 10,543 tons in sailing vessels.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year under review in the gaols of the various Presidencies amounted to 1,700, of which 947 were males, 715 females and 38 juveniles. The total number of deaths in prison during the year was 8, including one prisoner executed.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon at Antigua during the year, with the complaint in each case :—

Diseases or Complaints.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases	18	4
Gastro-intestinal diseases	173	1
Malingering	133	2
Rheumatism	83	12
Genito-urinary	28	8
Slight injuries	24	5
Epistaxis	1	0
Elephantiasis...	2	0
Apoplexy	1	0
Lung diseases	83	12
Heart diseases	13	0
Eye diseases	11	0
Fevers...	43	6
Abscess	15	2
Hernia	5	0
Headaches	6	0
Debility	27	2

There were 4 deaths of prisoners confined in the common gaol at Antigua ; two occurred in the gaol, one from apoplexy and one from diarrhœa ; the other two took place in the hospital in the case of prisoners transferred from the gaol, the cause in one case being typhoid fever and in the other tuberculosis.

The total number of prisoners admitted during the year was 568, including 36 from the other Presidencies of the Colony.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The aggregate number of offences reported to the police during 1897 was 13,261, as against 15,128 in the preceding year. Of these 3,800 were offences against the person, 990 prædial larceny, 1,718 were offences against property (except prædial larceny), while 6753 came under all other heads.

Summary convictions were recorded against 5,789 persons in the magistrates' courts, and there were 48 convictions in the superior courts. In the magistrates' courts 7,194 persons were acquitted, while in the superior courts there were 61 acquittals, and in 3 cases a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

HOSPITALS.

The following tables show briefly the particulars as to the number of patients who received medical treatment in 1897 in the hospitals, lunatic asylums, and leper asylums throughout the Colony, with the numbers discharged from these institutions and also the number of deaths which occurred :—

Hospital.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	135	1,590	361	980	—	224
Cunningham, St. Kitts	124	806	459	216	61	82
Pogson, St. Kitts ...	23	201	101	95	9	11
Nevis	21	83	36	23	—	12
* Roseau, Dominica ...	54	350	283	44	3	10
Chateau (Montserrat)	67	46	—	38	—	16
Hospital (Montserrat)	3	33	30	—	—	5
Virgin Islands... ...	12	7	—	18	—	1

* Including inmates of Yaws Ward or Hospital.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS (Antigua).

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	48	26	15	4	—	10
Ridge	32	6	—	—	1	2

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	32	2	—	—	—	3
St. Kitts	63	4	—	—	—	7

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks are established in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands. The total amount of money deposited during the year 1897 was £18,491, as against £22,817 for the previous year, the amount withdrawn being £20,407 in 1897, as against £27,111 in 1896. There was thus a decrease in the amount lodged in 1897 of £4,326, while the amount withdrawn was less by the sum of £6,704.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

The following table shows the amount at the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1897, in each Savings Bank, with the number of depositors at the same date. :—

Bank.	No. of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount at credit of Depositors on 31st December, 1897.
		£ s. d.
Antigua ...	1,696	36,572 7 7
St. Kitts ...	323	6,632 11 7
Nevis	86	3,214 13 6
Dominica ...	303	4,671 19 9
Montserrat ...	155	3,025 14 4
Total ...	2,563	£54,117 6 9

POST OFFICE.

It is satisfactory to find, from a comparison between the total expenditure and the total revenue of the last two years, that while the total expenditure was £454 less in 1897 than in 1896, the total revenue was £372 more in 1897 than in 1896. Hence the net deficit on the working of the Post Office for 1897 was only £89 10*s.* 5½*d.*, as against a deficit in 1896 of £914 11*s.* 8*d.* In other words, the Post Office is now almost self-supporting, including the payment of the annual Mail Subsidy. In 1895 the total excess of expenditure over revenue was £1,783 2*s.*

The total amount of Money Orders issued in the various Post Offices during 1897 was £20,191, as against £45,260 in 1896. The total amount of Money Orders cashed in the Colony in 1897 was £20,639, as against £13,984 in 1896. The large diminution in the amount of Orders issued is a significant sign of the depression in trade which prevailed during the year.

A comparison of the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched during the years 1896 and 1897 shows that during the latter year there was a substantial diminution in the numbers of letters, cards, papers, books, and parcels transmitted to and from the Colony.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The average rainfall at 54 stations in Antigua was only 39·67 inches, being 6·15 inches below the average rainfall for the past 24 years, and upwards of 20 inches less than the average rainfall in 1896.

The rainfall recorded at the town of Basseterre in St. Kitts was 37·91 inches in 1887.

In Dominica the average rainfall at 21 stations was 114·71 inches.

In Montserrat the only rainfall recorded (at Elberton) amounted to 64·10 inches for the year. There were during the year constant earthquake shocks in this Presidency, varying in force and duration.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Reviewing the general features which present themselves to our notice in examining the statistics of the year 1897, we find the retrospect by no means satisfactory. It has been a year of great depression in trade (indicated by a reduction of nearly £90,000 in the value of imports), of drought (as shown by the fact that the rainfall was over 6 inches short of the average), and of painful uncertainty as to whether the cultivation of the staple product, sugar, would not shortly become impossible. A number of estates have been put out of cultivation and the labour employed on all was reduced to a minimum, while wages were reduced as low as possible.

Fortunately the prices obtained for sugar were considerably higher in 1897 than in 1896, so that with a total crop nearly 4,000 tons less, the prices obtained amounted to nearly £8,000 more in the aggregate. It is due to the improved prices obtained for sugar and molasses that the value of exports shows an increase of nearly £12,000 over the exports of 1896.

Retrenchment has been carried out, where it was possible, in the public expenditure, and permanent reductions of expenditure in the establishment have been provided for in the future by the passing of Acts reducing the salaries of most of the higher officials, which will come into force as vacancies occur in the several offices.

There appears little else to add. The attitude of the Colony has been one of despondency, into which, however, hope has been infused by the knowledge that efforts were being made by the

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

Imperial Government to obtain a removal, or at least a diminution, of the various burthens which now threaten to break the back of the sugar industry. May the year of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Diamond Jubilee prove to have been the turning point in the long period of depression which Her Colonies in the West Indies have undergone!

GEO. MELVILLE,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Leeward Islands,

25th August, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 266.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 246.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET. FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & CO., 12, HANOVER STREET. EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & CO., LIMITED. 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9498.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
240	St. Helena	1897
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica...	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Report on Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 266.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 246.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Antigua,

19th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898 together with the Report on the same which has been prepared by Mr. Melville, the Colonial Secretary.

2. Every attempt has been made to draw up this Report in conformity with the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 31st of January last, and for the Blue Book to be forwarded to you at as early a date as possible, but owing to the delays which are caused by references to the different Presidencies of this Government it is very difficult for the Blue Book to be transmitted as soon as it otherwise might be.

3. The credit of the completion of the Blue Book at a comparatively early period of the year is greatly due to the exertions of Mr. Gordon, the Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, who has spared no trouble in his endeavours to obtain the necessary returns &c., and to facilitate the preparation of the report of the Colonial Secretary on the lines desired by you.

4. In order to expedite matters as much as possible I authorized the Colonial Secretary to communicate direct with the different Presidencies on all matters relating to the Blue Book, and this course has somewhat assisted in bringing about its early completion.

5. I need add but few remarks to what Mr. Melville has stated in his report. The revenue in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and

3329*—75—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

Montserrat decreased during the year 1898 when compared with 1897 by some £13,000, while the expenditure of Antigua and Montserrat increased by about £4,200. In Dominica and the Virgin Islands there was an increase of revenue amounting to £1,000, and a decrease of expenditure in St. Kitts-Nevis of about £7,000.

The total expenditure of the Colony was, however, £2,314 less than in 1897, £10,825 less than in 1896, and £26,762 less than in 1895.

6. The constitutional changes which were brought about in Antigua and Dominica, and to which Mr. Melville alludes under the heading "Legislation," will, I believe, prove beneficial to both of these Presidencies.

7. I referred in my despatch of the 9th September last, when forwarding the Blue Book for 1897, to what I believed would be the result of a reduced rate of postage.

As the new postal rate of 1*d.* per half ounce only came into operation on the 25th of December last, no reference could be made in the present Blue Book to returns based thereon for the year 1898, but from such information as I have been furnished with recently, I believe the result of the penny postage system will, far from causing a decrease in the revenue, considerably increase the receipts of the Postal Department.

8. It is a matter for regret that it should have been necessary to reduce the amount for school grants in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis by 25 per cent., but I hope it may be possible for Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture, to assist this Colony in furthering industrial and agricultural teaching—branches of education which cannot fail to benefit many of the rising generation in these Islands.

9. The Mico Institution, referred to under the head of "Education" in the report, is not to be continued after the end of this year. It is unfortunate that such an institution should have to close its doors, although I do not anticipate much difficulty in obtaining male teachers for the Primary Schools.

10. With a decreasing revenue and with the difficulty of reducing expenditure except by degrees, it has been impossible to attempt the undertaking of any public works of importance, although whenever an opportunity offers, some attempt should be made to improve the lunatic and leper asylums in this Presidency, the unsatisfactory condition of which I have felt bound to bring to your notice on several occasions.

11. Enquiries have recently been made as to the possibility of establishing central sugar factories in some of the islands of this Colony, more especially Antigua.

12. I sincerely trust that these investigations will have a satisfactory result, for I feel perfectly sure that without the introduction of machinery which will allow of sugar being manufactured in such a way as to prevent that waste which now takes place, and of such a description as will render it a marketable commodity, Antigua and St. Kitts cannot hope for much improvement in the future.

13. With the establishment of central factories, which will moreover give employment to many, and with the abolition of the bounty system, I see no reason why these Islands, which are in many respects favoured by nature, should not be able to meet their expenses and attain a reasonable degree of prosperity in the future.

I have, &c.,

F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Leeward Islands,

24th May, 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1898, exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government, was £112,577, showing a net decrease of £12,191, as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £124,768.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Presidency.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	57,678	44,348	54,951	46,330	39,663	—	6,667
St. Kitts-Nevis	55,443	43,215	49,561	45,247	40,430	—	4,817
Dominica	22,982	22,860	24,904	23,610	24,570	960	—
Montserrat	8,677	7,125	7,775	7,906	6,199	—	1,707
Virgin Islands	2,577	1,534	1,469	1,675	1,715	40	—
Total	147,357	119,082	138,660	124,768	112,577	1,000	13,191

Net decrease of revenue in 1898, as compared with 1897, £12,191.

From a comparison of the receipts of 1898 with those of 1897 it appears that under the head of Customs there were, in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, decreases of £2,600, £1,138, and £142 respectively, while the Presidencies of Dominica and the Virgin Islands showed increased receipts under this head of £1,064 and £103 respectively.

The item "Port and Harbour Dues &c." reflects the position of the Customs receipts, there being a decrease in 1898 in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, and a slight increase in Dominica and the Virgin Islands.

Under the head of Excise, the Presidency of Antigua shows a decrease in 1898 over the previous year's receipts of £15, St. Kitts-Nevis a decrease of £385, and Montserrat a large decrease of £613, while Dominica shows an increase of £724.

The remaining heads under Internal Revenue (taxes, licenses, rates, and miscellaneous) show a total decrease of £5,521, and it is worthy of remark that in each individual Presidency there is a decrease in each one of these heads, with the single exception of the item of rates, which in Antigua shows an increase of £325 and in Dominica a small increase of some £10.

The revenue derived from "Fees of Court, Post Office, Rents, Interest, Miscellaneous and Land Sales" was less by £3,154 in 1898 than in 1897.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure of the various Presidencies for the year 1898 was £138,612, as against £140,926 for the previous year, showing a decrease of £2,314.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as well as the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Presidency.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	59,675	70,221	57,345	53,417	55,586	2,169	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	58,761	55,395	56,501	51,775	44,659	—	7,116
Dominica	27,833	27,102	25,189	24,062	24,648	586	—
Montserrat	8,301	10,702	8,732	9,895	11,936	2,041	—
Virgin Islands	1,602	1,954	1,670	1,777	1,783	6	—
Total	156,172	165,374	149,437	140,926	138,612	4,802	7,116

Net decrease of expenditure in 1898, as compared with 1897, £2,314.

Comparing the various heads of expenditure in each Presidency with those of the previous year it will be seen that the principal heads in which an increase of expenditure occurs in 1898, as compared with 1897, were Charges on account of Public Debt, which shows an increase of £1,212; Federal Contribution an increase of £745; Post Office an increase of £1,111, and Public Works Extraordinary an increase of £1,953. The latter increase is due to the fact that with the sanction of the Secretary of State some expenditure in the shape of relief works occurred in Antigua, while in Montserrat a considerable sum was expended in repairs to roads damaged by floods.

A large decrease of expenditure was effected in various directions, principally £3,087 under Education (the school grants being reduced by 25 per cent. in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis). Under the head of Miscellaneous a reduction of £922 occurred, while decreases of £630, £518, £490 and £361 appear under the respective heads of Police, Treasury, Military, Public Works Department and Laboratory.

Passing briefly in review the expenditure of each Presidency in turn, the following salient features present themselves :—

Antigua shows increases of £756 under the head of Charges on account of Public Debt, of £533 on account of Federal Contribution, of £583 on account of Hospitals (mainly due to increased poor relief, necessitated by a long drought), of £320 under Board of Health (mainly for expenditure by the Board on the work of cleaning out ponds used for drinking purposes in the country districts, a work which was rendered possible through the exceptional dryness of the season), of £770 under Post Office (including accounts for three years payment of sum due to the General Post Office for ocean postage), and of over £2,000 expended in relief works (chiefly road repairs), with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The principal decreases of expenditure in Antigua were £259 under the head of Police (owing to the pay of a detachment temporarily stationed in Montserrat being charged to the latter Presidency), £1,458 under Education, and £200 under the subhead of Telegraphs, the subsidy of the West India and Panama Company being reduced by that amount.

The total deficit on the working of the year 1898 in this Presidency was £15,923, which was met by a grant from the Imperial Parliament, which also enabled £13,000 to be applied to repayment of loans, and £1,450 to the repayment of a debt due to the Presidency on account of the Island of Barbuda.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a total decrease of expenditure appears in 1898 as compared with 1897 of £7,116, reductions occurring under the following heads, namely :—Treasury and Customs, £567; Police, £482; Prisons, £308; Medical, £380; Hospitals, £308; Education, £1,599; Laboratory (abolished), £267; Military, £275; Miscellaneous, £1,490; Post Office, £939;

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

Telegraphs (subsidy reduced), £200 ; Public Works Department, £227 ; and Public Works Extraordinary, £580.

The only head which shows any material increase in this Presidency is that of Charges on account of Public Debt, which is larger by £256 than the previous year.

The total deficit in St. Kitts-Nevis was £4,229 which was met by an Imperial grant, from which a sum of £15,000 was also applied to repayment of loans.

In Dominica there was a total increase of expenditure of £586 as compared with 1897—the principal items of increase being Police, £116 ; Hospitals, £189 ; and Miscellaneous, £458.

The principal heads of decrease in this Presidency were Pensions, £201 ; and Public Works Recurrent, £282.

The Presidency of Montserrat shows a total increase of expenditure of £2,041 in 1898 over that of 1897, the increases appearing under the heads of Charges on account of Debt, £200; Miscellaneous, £761 ; Public Works Recurrent, £454 ; and Public Works Extraordinary, £502.

The increases were mainly due to expenses incurred in connection with a riot which unfortunately occurred during the year, and to expenditure on account of roads and buildings damaged by flood and earthquakes.

The total deficit in Montserrat at the close of the year 1898 was £5,737 (the revenue being £6,199, as against a total expenditure of £11,936). This was met by a grant from the Imperial Parliament, while from the same source a sum of £7,000 was applied to repayment of loans.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands shows an expenditure only some £6 in excess of that of the previous year, calling for no remark.

The overdraft on the Crown Agents, which has stood for some years as a floating debt of this Presidency, was extinguished by the payment of £2,250 by the Imperial Government.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

In Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, the land tax on lands cultivated for sugar was considerably reduced for the year commencing on April 1st, while the export duties payable in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica were remitted for the same period. An Ordinance was also passed in Antigua increasing the import duties on spirits (other than rum) and on flour, bread, and fish.

This Ordinance, however, did not receive Her Majesty's approval, and has since been repealed so far as the increase of duty on flour, bread, and fish was concerned, while the increased duties on spirits remain in force.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, Ordinances were passed during the year imposing additional duties of customs on rum and kerosine, while a tax was also imposed on all wheeled vehicles within the Presidency.

3359*—5

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Federal Balance Sheet as at 31*st December*, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	Assets.	—
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Presidencies...	624 1 11	By Presidencies...	92 15 5
„ Money Order accounts	729 11 5	„ Money Order accounts	600 0 0
„ Deposit accounts :—		„ Investment accounts :—	
Land Assurance Fund	1,402 2 1	Land Assurance Fund	1,300 0 0
„ Sundry Creditors	22 15 0	„ Sundry Debtors	720 17 1
„ Drafts on Crown Agents	50 0 0	„ Cash	114 17 11
Total	2,828 10 5	Total...	2,828 10 5

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	427 13 1	Advances	—	876 18 7½
Sundry Creditors	—	960 16 2	Crown Agents	804 2 10	
Drafts on Crown Agents	—	400 0 0	Treasurer	149 18 0½	954 0 10½
Loans Works (Balance of Appropriation).	—	10,206 6 1	Excess of Liabilities	—	10,163 15 10
Total	—	11,994 15 4	Total	—	11,994 15 4

Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	438 16 0	Cash—In Colonial Bank on Current account.	2,183 16 1	—
Crown Agents...	—	1,834 17 8	In Treasury Chest, Anguilla.	35 18 1	2,219 14 2
Loan Works (1891)	1,652 13 9		G. H Turner's sureties	—	100 0 0
„ „ (1893)	2,763 12 6	4,416 6 3	G. H. Turner	—	115 18 11
Money Orders	—	162 5 6	Money Orders	—	491 7 11
Sundry Creditors	—	428 11 5	Advances	—	830 12 6
			Remittances in Transit	—	118 0 0
			Excess of Liabilities	—	3,405 3 4
Total	—	7,280 16 10	Total	—	7,280 16 10

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31*st December*, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Money Order Accounts	—	180 14 11	Money Order Accounts	—	43 14 4
Sundry Creditors	—	1,018 16 11	Authorized Advances	—	157 0 0½
Deposit Account (Sundry)	—	232 17 6	Sundry Debtors	—	117 12 5½
Surplus and Deficit account (Surplus)	—	1,558 17 6½	Remittances in transit	—	22 8 8
			Treasurer (Cash)	—	2,650 11 4½
Total	—	2,991 6 10½	Total	—	2,991 6 10½

Presidency of Montserrat.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—			Assets	—		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Crown Agents	722	4	3	Cash	157	6	11
Advances and Deposits received	538	0	4	Advances...	73	14	11
Money Orders	1,322	2	6	Drafts and Remittances	336	3	7
				Money Orders	34	17	7
				Excess of Liabilities	1,980	4	1
Total	2,582	7	1	Total	2,582	7	1

PRESIDENCY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Crown Agents	—	31 3 10	Cash—In Treasury Chest	—	399 11 1¾
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	159 13 7	Advances	—	17 10 7½
Money Orders	—	178 0 5			
Unrepresented Estates	—	8 0 9	Excess of Liabilities...	—	24 1 9¾
Postmaster's Deposits	63 19 8				
Pro : Marshal's Deposits	5 4	64 5 0			
Total	—	441 3 7	Total	—	441 3 7

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which on the 31st December 1897 stood at £335,621, was at the close of 1898 reduced to £300,121, the Imperial Government having repaid the following sums on behalf of the loans of the undermentioned Presidencies, namely—Antigua £13,000, St. Kitts-Nevis £15,000 and Montserrat £7,000. A floating debt of the Virgin Islands, in the shape of an overdraft on the Crown Agents amounting to £2,250, was also paid off by the Imperial Government.

In addition to these repayments of debts from Parliamentary grants, the following payments were also made from revenue in redemption of loans, namely, Antigua Savings Bank £200, Montserrat Water Works Loan (1897) £100, Public Works Loan (1891) £200.

The Dominica Water Works Loan of £5,900 (the sinking fund of which, £5,046, is nearly sufficient to repay it) appears in the statement of Public Debt given below, although this loan has now been assumed by the Town Board of Roseau and is regarded as a liability of the Municipality.

The following table shows the individual liability of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, with a column showing the amount at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts on the 31st December 1898 :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	137,471	17,460
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	74,450	4,466
Dominica	70,900	10,028
Montserrat ...	17,300	616
Total ...	300,121	32,570

(E.) Currency.

Under this head there appears to be nothing to be remarked. The Bank rates of Exchange remained unaltered.

(F.) Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Municipalities.

The Town Board of Roseau in Dominica is at present the only existing municipality in the Colony. An Ordinance has, however, been passed providing for the creation of a City Board for St. Johns in Antigua, which will be established during the year 1899.

The Roseau Town Board was established in June 1896, and its revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—

1896.—Revenue,	£754		Expenditure,	£714.
1897.— „	£929		„	£925.
1898.— „	£978		„	£964.

(G.) Debts of Municipalities.

The only debt of the Roseau Town Board is the amount of the Water Works Loan, £5,900, towards which a sinking fund had been accumulated at the end of 1898 of £5,046, as mentioned above. Annual contributions of £147 towards the final extinction of the debt are made from the general revenue of the Board.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The aggregate value of the imports during the year under review (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies) was £299,976, as against £312,657 for the year 1897, being a decrease of £12,681.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports were made, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 in comparison with the previous year:—

Total Imports.

Country whence imported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897	1898	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	206,920	163,376	178,917	133,497	134,071	574	—
British Colonies	47,951	56,050	57,949	41,694	41,308	—	386
United States of America...	161,594	162,191	149,982	124,064	113,864	—	10,200
Other Foreign Countries	14,243	15,505	15,350	13,402	10,733	—	2,669
Total	430,708	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	574	13,255

Net decrease in value of Imports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £12,681

The returns of internal trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands show a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £12,119, as against £13,096 in 1897.

The table last given shows that while there was a slight increase in the value of goods imported from the United Kingdom in 1898 as compared with 1897, there was a falling off in the value of imports from all other places. It is possible that the Spanish-American war may have affected the imports from the United States during certain months to some extent.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate values of the various classes of articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897. The only classes of imports which show an increase are live animals and foodstuffs, while the largest decrease in imports is shown in the various classes of manufactured articles and in liquors.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	3,925	2,189	2 649	979	2,425	1,446	—
Foodstuffs	164,490	170,931	158,378	132,320	132,728	408	—
Drinks	17,262	16,550	13,993	11,443	9,375	—	2,068
Narcotics	3,893	3,661	3,792	3,722	3,142	—	580
Raw Materials	17,165	14,063	16,953	9,947	8,310	—	1,637
Manufactured Articles, Textile	95,816	82,457	91,376	67,688	62,872	—	4,816
Do. Metal	25,130	19,712	20,873	16,912	13,081	—	3,831
Other Manufactures	95,944	87,559	92,684	69,540	63,448	—	6,092
	423,625	397,122	400,698	312,551	295,381	1,854	19,024
Coin and Bullion	7,083	—	1,500	106	4,595	4,489	—
Total	430,708	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	6,343	19,024

Exports.

The aggregate value of the exports during the year 1898 (exclusive of the internal trade between the Presidencies) was £286,403, as compared with £328,496 in 1897, showing a net decrease of £42,093.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898, as compared with 1897. It will be observed that while there was an increase of £12,981 in the value of exports to the United Kingdom, there was a large decrease of £44,802 in the value of exports to the United States (due to the short sugar crop), while the value of exports to British Colonies also shows a decrease of £10,850.

Total Exports.

Countries to which exported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	32,679	48,708	44,703	49,582	62,563	12,981	—
British Colonies	74,996	56,022	54,027	38,925	28,075	—	10,850
United States of America...	305,748	142,826	196,141	223,150	178,348	—	44,802
Other Foreign Countries	26,125	20,266	21,639	16,839	17,417	578	—
Total	439,548	267,822	316,510	328,496	286,403	13,559	55,652

Net decrease in value of exports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £42,093.

The export trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony shows a decrease of £5,001, the figures being £6,421 in 1898, as against £11,422 in 1897.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of export during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		Increase 1898 over 1897.		Decrease 1898 under 1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ... Tons	33,155	345,810	27,592	173,652	32,498	228,612	28,555	236,209	20,065	174,098	—	—	8,490	62,111
Molasses Tons	10,690	30,101	8 436	23,290	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	—	—	3,275	3,911
Rum ... Galls.	43,860	1,725	62,395	2,788	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265	48,451	1,579	—	—	14,235	686
Coffee ... lbs.	14,540	880	12,726	459	38,528	1,280	20,533	722	21,958	537	1,425	—	—	185
Cocoa ... lbs.	635,478	8,655	617,836	8,444	944,349	12,823	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	519,182	17,355	—	—
Lime and Lime Juice.	—	12,284	—	19,599	—	19,240	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	1,239	—	—
Total ...		399,455		228,232		277,892		285,223		236,924		18,594		66,893

Net decrease in value of above exports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £48,299.

From the above table it will be observed that the quantity of sugar exported was very considerably less in 1898 than in any of the four previous years, being nearly 9,000 tons less than in 1897, and considerably over 12,000 tons less than in 1896.

The average amount of sugar exported for the last five years is 28,373 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1898 was over 8,000 tons below the average.

On the other hand it is a matter for satisfaction to find that the quantity of cocoa exported, viz., 1,112,662 lbs., was nearly double the amount exported in 1897, which was 593,680 lbs., and was over 332,000 lbs. above the average of the last five years.

(B.) Mines, Manufactures and Fisheries.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffriere, and there are also mines in Virgin Gorda, none of which are at present worked. There is some prospect, however, of the latter being again worked for molybdenum.

Sugar is manufactured in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, lime juice in Dominica and Montserrat, bay oil in Dominica, and arrowroot in Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land is 16,481 acres in Antigua, 18,654 acres in St. Kitts and Nevis, 8,691 acres in Dominica, 8,000 acres in Montserrat. Of this the cultivation in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis is almost entirely that of sugar, while in Dominica and Montserrat cocoa, lime juice, and coffee are also grown.

Much is hoped for from the establishment by the Imperial Government of an Agricultural and Botanical Department for the West Indies.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

No land grants have been made in recent years, and the general value of land varies so greatly in different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1898, distinguishing between British and Foreign vessels :—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	409,122	13,612	—	6,434	409,122	20,046
St. Kitts ... Nevis ... Anguilla...	453,392	24.813	10,800	12,873	464,192	37,686
Dominica ...	443,252	7,884	4.072	1,790	447.324	9,674
Montserrat ...	199.102	8,602	—	726	199,102	9,328
Virgin Islands	—	10,533	—	774	—	11,307
Total ...	1,504,868	65,444	14,872	22,597	1,519,740	88,041

Comparing the above figures with those of 1897, it appears that there was in 1898 a total increase of 35,560 tons in steam vessels. If we examine the figures for each individual Presidency with those of 1897, it will be found that in Antigua there was a decrease of 12,758 in steam tonnage and of 4,022 in sailing tonnage, and in Montserrat a decrease of 15,042 tons in steam vessels and of 5,243 tons in sailing vessels, while St. Kitts-Nevis shows an increase of 11,112 tons in steam vessels and a slight decrease in sailing vessels.

When, however, we come to Dominica, it is satisfactory to find that there was in 1898 a very large increase of 52,244 in the tonnage of steam vessels visiting the Island, while there is a decrease of 2,706 tons in the sailing craft entered and cleared.

The following table shows the total of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels :—

Total Tonnage.

——	1894.	1895.	*1896.	1897.	1898.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	501,886	467,978	468,612	445,948	429,168
St. Kitts-Nevis	507,627	478,132	473,407	491,629	501,878
Dominica ...	424,896	360,954	401,051	407,460	456,998
Montserrat ...	427,575	372,471	276,272	228,715	208,430
Virgin Islands ...	21,699	16,534	11,924	11,545	11,307
Total of Colony	1,883,683	1,726,069	1,631,266	1,585,297	1,607,781

* In June 1896, the contract under which the Federal Steamship "Tyne" was run by the Royal Mail Company between the various Islands of the Colony expired, and was not renewed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the year 1898 important constitutional changes took place in the Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica.

On the 22nd March 1898, the Legislature of Antigua passed an Act abrogating the semi-elective constitution which has existed since 1866, and reducing the number of members of the Legislative Council from 24 to 16, eight officials and eight unofficials, the latter being now all nominated by the Governor.

Similarly, on the 12th July, the Legislative Assembly of Dominica passed an Act of the same nature providing for a Legislative Council of 12 members, six officials and six unofficials, all

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

the latter being nominated by the Governor, in place of the former constitution under which there were 14 members, seven of whom were nominated by the Governor and seven elected by small constituencies.

The necessity for these changes has long been evident in these two Presidencies, where the constituencies of many of the elective districts consisted of less than half a dozen resident proprietors, and as it has not been considered advisable at present to lower the franchise, the alternative system of nomination of representatives appeared desirable.

The Crown Colony system is therefore now in operation in each Presidency of the Colony.

Looking at the legislation of the various Presidencies and of the Federal Legislature, we find that the most important Act passed by the latter was No. 4 of 1898, "An Act to amend the Post Office Act, 1886," under which a system of penny postage was inaugurated between this Colony and the United Kingdom and a large number of British Possessions in various parts of the Empire.

A much needed Act was also passed (No. 12 of 1898) regulating the allowances of public officers when travelling on duty.

Of the ten enactments passed by the Legislature of Antigua the most important, besides the amendment of the constitution, referred to above, was Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, "An Ordinance to provide for the government of the City of Saint John," which was assented to by the Governor on the 17th November.

This Ordinance provides the machinery for the establishment of municipal government in the city of St. John. The Town Board is to consist of 12 members, six elected by the taxpayers and six nominated by the Governor. The electoral qualifications are:—

(1) The possession of lands or houses in the city to the value of £40; or

(2) Occupation of house of rental value of £12 per annum; or

(3) Receipt of income of £40.

The Board will have all the powers usually exercised by Municipal Councils, and will be competent to levy rates and taxes for the improvement, sanitation, water supply, &c., of the city.

The Ordinances reducing the land tax and imposing additional duties on spirits (except rum) have been already referred to under the head of changes in taxation.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year by the Legislature of St. Christopher-Nevis, of which perhaps the most important was No. 9, "An Ordinance for the Regulation of Watercourses," besides the Ordinances providing for the reduction of the land tax and the remission of export duties already referred to under the head of changes in taxation.

In the Presidency of Dominica six enactments were passed, none of which call for any special notice, except the Constitution Amendment Act and the Ordinance for the remission of export duties, which have been already referred to.

In Montserrat two Ordinances of some importance were passed, viz., "An Ordinance for the Construction and Abbreviation of Laws," which, among other provisions, confers on the Commissioner, in the absence of the Governor from the Presidency, certain powers of the Governor, and "An Ordinance to establish a Defence Force," which latter, however, has not been brought into operation.

Of the three Ordinances passed in the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, two were the usual formal Supply Ordinances, and the third an Ordinance for the notification of diseases, which, however, requires amendment.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

The attendance at the elementary schools, which had slightly decreased in 1897, shows a small increase in 1898, the numbers on the roll being 25,122 in the latter year as against 25,022 in 1897. The average attendance, however, has fallen off, the figures being 11,745 as against 12,438 in 1897.

In consequence of the unsatisfactory financial position of the Colony it was found necessary to curtail the school grants by 25 per cent. in the Presidency of Antigua, and a similar step was also found necessary in St. Kitts-Nevis.

The amount received from school fees was also slightly less in 1898 than in 1897, while there was a small increase in the voluntary contributions.

The total amounts of the Government grants paid were respectively £7,090 3*s* 3*d*. in 1897 and £6,223 7*s*. 11*d*. in 1898, and the total amount expended on education (including revenue derived from fees and voluntary contributions) was £7,015 7*s*. 10*d*. in 1898 as against £7,964 17*s*. 0*d*. in 1897.

It is proposed by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, that some provision be made out of the Parliamentary Grant in aid of the Imperial Department of

Agriculture for encouraging a system of practical agricultural instruction in elementary schools, plots of land being attached to certain schools for this purpose.

Provision has hitherto been made by a Federal law for a special grant of £200 to the Mico Institution for the training of male teachers of primary schools, and an annual grant of £200 is also made from Federal funds for the training of female teachers at the Moravian College at Spring Gardens, Antigua.

(B.) Secondary Education.

The only secondary schools in the Colony besides the two already mentioned (which, as they are employed solely to provide teachers for elementary schools, have been included under the head of primary education) are the Antigua Grammar School for Boys, with 47 boys, which receives a grant of £200 per annum from Antigua funds, and the Antigua Girls' High School, with 33 pupils, which receives a grant of £100 from the same source.

There is also a Government Grammar School in Dominica.

Centres for Cambridge Local Examinations have for some years been established in Antigua and Dominica. Periodical examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in Arts of the University of London.

(C.) Industrial, Technical, or Agricultural Schools.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School the number of boys received is now limited to 100, and there were actually 99 inmates of the school on the 31st December 1898, of whom 68 were natives of the Presidency of Antigua, 26 of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), and 6 of the Presidency of Montserrat.

The Girls' Training School at Scotts Hill was closed early in the year 1898, as a measure of economy.

At the Skerretts Government Farm, which is worked by the boys in the Industrial School in connection with the school, the experimental cultivation of several varieties of sugar cane was carried on, but owing to the absence of any analytical chemist, the scientific results could not be worked out and published as in former years.

The total expenditure on the stock farm and estate was £473 6*s.* 2*d.*, while the receipts from the farm amounted to £336 12*s.* 1*d.*

The value of the stock was estimated at the end of the year at £1,871.

During the year 1898 there was a considerable mortality amongst the cattle, owing to an outbreak of skin disease, and the want of a proper supply of water was much felt.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

The following table shows, in a summarized form, the number of patients admitted in 1898 into the various hospitals throughout the Colony, the numbers discharged from these institutions, and the number of deaths which took place.

It may be remarked that owing to a long drought, which prevailed during the first six months of the year, much distress, and even actual starvation, existed amongst the labouring classes in the Presidency of Antigua.

Hospital.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	160	1,646	224	1,098	—	327
Cunningham. St. Kitts	112	847	474	210	70	96
*Pogson (closed) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis	25	110	38	30	5	34
Dominica	43	494	369	57	3	44
Montserrat (Chateau)	59	77	36	36	17	—
(Hospital)	1	49	25	22	—	2
*Virgin Islands (closed)	—	—	—	—	—	—

* These hospitals were closed during the year owing to the financial condition of the Colony.

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics of the Lunatic Asylums for the year :—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	64	26	10	5	1	10
Ridge	35	6	—	—	—	2

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	31	8	—	—	—	3
St. Kitts	60	11	—	—	—	6

(C.) POOR HOUSES.

In Antigua there were in the Poor House on 1st January 87 inmates. During the year 1898, 64 were admitted, 30 died and 39 were discharged.

The number of persons in Antigua who received poor relief was 1,165, the total amount spent being £780 14*s.* 10*d.* Owing to a severe drought and consequent failure of provision crops exceptional distress prevailed during several months in 1898. A soup-kitchen was established and carried on by private subscription for some months.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

(*See under* Education—Training Schools.)

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks have been established in all the Presidencies except that of the Virgin Islands. The total amount at the credit of depositors in the Colony on the 31st December last was £55,846 4*s.* 1*d.* The amount deposited during the year was £21,008 3*s.* 7*d.*, as against withdrawals amounting to £19,542 19*s.* 4*d.*, while the number of depositors on the 31st December was 2,491.

The amount of funds invested on behalf of the Savings Banks is upwards of £55,000.

(VI.) JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last a total strength of 183, including an inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 3 sergeant-majors, 29 non-commissioned officers, and 150 privates. Of these, 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 6 sergeants, 5 corporals, and 45 privates are stationed in Antigua; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 4 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 53 privates in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant, 3 corporals, and 30 privates in Dominica, and 1 sergeant-major, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 12 privates in Montserrat (since the end of last year the detachment in Montserrat has been increased in strength).

There are also 6 mounted police and 5 harbour police in Antigua, while 1 private is stationed in the Virgin Islands.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year 1898 in the gaols of the various Presidencies was 1,957. Of this number the approximate proportion of male prisoners amounted to 61¼ per cent., of female prisoners to 37¼ per cent., and of juveniles to 1½ per cent.

The number of deaths which occurred in Antigua among the prisoners was 5, three of whom died in the hospital, to which they had been transferred, and 2 in the prison. Of the latter, one prisoner died of apoplexy, and one from hæmorrhage from the

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

bowels. Of the three prisoners who died after transfer to the hospital, the cause of death in one case was chronic fistula, and urœmic poisoning, in another case diarrhœa, and the third was due to acute enteritis, produced by eating peppers, found growing near the gaol.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year 1898, with the complaint in each case :—

Disease or Complaint.	1897.		1898.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases	18	4	8	2
Gastro-intestinal dyspepsia, diarrhœa, dysentery.	173	11	125	8
Lung — Phthisis, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy.	83	12	49	4
Heart disease	13	0	6	2
Apoplexy	1	0	1	0
Debility...	27	2	14	3
Hernia	5	0	8	0
Eye diseases	11	0	9	2
Genito-urinary...	28	8	16	4
Rheumatism and neuralgia	83	12	44	4
Epistaxis	1	0	0	0
Elephantiasis	2	0	2	1
Fevers—Malarial, typhoid, &c. ...	43	6	30	7
Abscess	15	2	2	0
Headaches	6	0	20	4
Slight injuries	24	5	6	0
Malingering	132	2	80	0
Total	665	64	420	41

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The following table shows the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year, from which it appears that there has been a steady diminution of crime during the last four years, while the number of offences reported during the year 1898 was the smallest during the five years.

Years.	Offences reported.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1894 ...	17,538	8,628	8,904
1895 ...	18,282	7,479	8,921
1896 ...	15,128	5,962	8,959
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105

Of the 12,813 offences reported during 1898, 2,993 were offences against the person, 1,241 prædial larceny, 1,633 were offences against property (other than prædial larceny), while the remaining 6,946 comprised all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 5,526 persons in the Magistrates' Courts, the number of persons convicted by the Superior Courts being 87.

In the Magistrates' Courts 6,947 persons were acquitted, while the number acquitted in the Superior Courts was 67, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 89 cases.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The aggregate returns from the Registrars of the various Presidencies show a total for the Colony of 5,057 births, 3,601 deaths, and 455 marriages. The census of 1891 gave a total population for the Colony of 127,723, and adding on the number of births in excess of deaths between the date of the census and the 31st December 1898, we obtain as the present population of the Colony an apparent total of 139,519, but in the absence of statistics of emigration and immigration, the above total cannot be considered reliable. Owing to want of work, numbers of men have left for other Colonies in search of employment.

The following summary shows the population of each Island of the Colony at the end of 1898 (subject to the differences caused by immigration and emigration above referred to) together with the births, deaths, and marriages in each case during the past year.

As usual the births are largely in excess of the deaths.

ISLAND.	Population on 31st December 1898.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Marriages.
Antigua ...	37,581	1,404	1,225	179	138
Barbuda ...	683	35	30	5	3
St. Kitts ...	33,159	1,227	801	336	122
Nevis	14,859	647	447	200	45
Anguilla ...	4,263	133	79	54	6
Dominica ...	29,886	902	530	372	81
Montserrat ...	13,756	528	281	247	43
Virgin Islands ...	5,332	181	118	63	17
Total ...	139,519	5,057	3,601	1,456	455

(B.) Public Health.

The following table shows the death-rate of the Colony per 1,000 during the past three years. It will be seen that the death-rate in 1898 was 2·52 per 1,000 in excess of that of 1897 :—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	136,034	3,404	25·02
1897 ...	138,069	3,215	23·29
1898 ...	139,519	3,601	25·81

(C.) Sanitation.

Sanitary Boards exists in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations. In the town of St. John's, Antigua, the dry earth privy system, with frequent removal of excreta, has been introduced, and is gradually being extended. The villages are kept clear of weeds. In the Presidencies of St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat there is an abundant supply of good water carried by pipes to the towns. In Antigua, while the town of St. John's has a fair water supply, the country villages are exceedingly badly supplied with water by ponds, which can only be cleaned out in very dry weather.

(D.) Climate.

(1.) *Rainfall.*

The average of the rainfall recorded at 66 stations in Antigua during the year 1898 was 48·85 inches. The average rainfall during the past 25 years was 45·94 inches, so that last year's rainfall was 2·78 inches above the annual average. Although the rainfall was on the whole above the average, however, a protracted drought occurred during the first half of the year, only 14 inches falling up to the end of June.

In St. Kitts the rainfall at Laguerite was 55·51 inches.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

In Dominica the average rainfall recorded at 15 stations was 108·73 inches. Of these 15 stations, the average rainfall at 10 stations on the leeward side of the Island was 105·42 inches, while the average for 5 stations on the windward slopes was 115·33 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall at 6 stations was 68·81 inches.

(2.) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the shade temperature in St. John's varied during the year from 90·5 in September and October to 67 in February, the average readings for the year being 81·8 at 9 a.m. and 84·4 at 3 p.m.

In St. Kitts the maximum temperature at Laguerite was 90 in September, and the minimum 70 in January, while the average readings were 81·34 at 9 a.m. and 83·16 at 3 p.m.

In Montserrat, at Elberton (400 feet above sea level), the maximum recorded was 91 in May and the minimum 66 in December and February (readings taken at 9 a.m.), the average temperature being 79·4.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east, with occasional variations to north-east and east-north-east, with an average velocity varying from 7·76 miles per hour in St. John's, Antigua, to 9·79 at Laguerite, St. Kitts.

Trade winds blow during the greater part of the year, but during the months of July, August, September and October the wind is usually light and variable, these being, however, the months during which hurricanes most frequently occur.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Comparing the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched in the Colony during the year 1898 with the figures for 1897, we find that there was an increase of 13,510 in the number of letters received and sent, of 3,811 papers and books, while the number of parcels shows an increase of 626.

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £28,409 as compared with £20,191 in 1897, while the value of orders cashed in the Colony amounted to only £9,519 as against £29,039 in 1897.

The telegraph rates were reduced during the past year, the rate per word between this Colony and the United Kingdom being now 4*s.* 7½*d.* per word, while the rate for Government messages has been reduced to 3*s.* 1½*d.* per word.

Telephone systems are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being in the former Island 275 miles of wire and 147 instruments in use, while the latter has 204 miles of wire and 78 instruments.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system was £909 and the receipts were £720.

In St. Kitts the expenditure was £539 and the receipts £334.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) Regular Forces.

None.

(B.) Militia.

None.

(C.) Volunteers.

Volunteer Defence Forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the St. John's Infantry Company (armed with Martini-Enfield rifles) numbered, on the 31st December, 54 officers and men, and is increasing in strength.

A mounted infantry company is also in course of formation in Antigua.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a Volunteer Defence Force has been established since 1396, numbering 184 officers and men, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles. Of these, 66 are mounted infantry and 105 are infantry, with 10 officers and three medical officers.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force was in 1898 £1,018 (including all expenses consequent on the formation of the corps, salary of drill instructor, and amount of capitation grant drawn).

The expenditure on the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force was £835 in 1898. The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(D.) CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

None.

The police are armed with Martini-Enfield rifles.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

No events of importance arrest our attention when reviewing the course of the year 1898. The Colony was mercifully spared the ruin and desolation brought upon several other Islands by the disastrous hurricane of the 11th and 12th September, which will long be remembered in Saint Vincent and Barbados and by Saint Lucia. The track of this cyclone just touched Anguilla and Barbuda, in which Islands some damage was done to houses, but no loss of life occurred.

The difficulty of finding work in the larger Islands induced many of the more able-bodied men to seek employment elsewhere. A large number left for the newly acquired American dependencies of Porto Rico and Cuba after the war, where, owing to the laws prohibiting the landing of pauper immigrants, they were in most cases not permitted to land.

No public works of any importance were carried out during the year, the financial condition of most of the Presidencies requiring the strictest economy.

The Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica passed Acts abrogating their former semi-elective Constitutions, and providing for legislative bodies nominated by the Crown; and each Presidency of the Colony now possesses the Crown Colony form of Government, the Federal Legislature being, as before, partly nominated and partly elected by the unofficial members of the various local Legislatures.

The future prospects of trade in the larger Islands are, and must always be, dependent on the success and development of the staple industry, sugar, and it is hoped that the efforts which are being made by the Imperial Government to promote the establishment of central factories will speedily result in action being taken in this direction.

The climate of the Leeward Islands is, generally speaking, a healthy one for Europeans, although during the hot months occasional sporadic outbreaks of malignant fever occur; but there are few openings for white labour at the present time.

A projected road across the interior of Dominica, from the Leeward to the Windward Coast, which will traverse a large area of rich Crown lands, should be the means of opening up a portion of that Island to the profitable employment of capital in the cultivation of cocoa and other products.

The establishment, in October last, of an Imperial West Indian Department of Agriculture, presided over by Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G., with an efficient staff, including curators of botanic stations and agricultural instructors in the various Islands, gives a guarantee that the capacity of these Islands to support remunerative agricultural industries will be thoroughly tested. The expenditure on this large undertaking, which it is hoped may result in stimulating productive labour and cultivation in many of the smaller Islands, now suffering from apathy and depression and from the want of means of sending their produce to any market, has been generously guaranteed for some years by the Imperial Parliament, to which these struggling Colonies owe a grateful acknowledgment.

GEO. MELVILLE,

Colonial Secretary.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

No. 243.

MALTA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 196.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October 1898.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046—11.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896-97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ...	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ...	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ...	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 243.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 196.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. J. LYON FREMANTLE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

ART. FREMANTLE,
Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta, 2nd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1897.

FINANCES.

Revenue.

The revenue collected from all sources in 1897 amounted to £323,787 5*s.* 10½*d.* This amount exceeds the estimate by £1,469 5*s.* 10½*d.*, and it exceeds by £10,106 11*s.* 3½*d.* the revenue of 1896.

The following table shows the receipts under each head of revenue compared with those collected in 1896 :—

75*—75—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

HEADS OF REVENUE	COLLECTED IN 1896.	COLLECTED IN 1897.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	176,457 6 1	172,707 12 1	—	3,749 14 0
Harbour and Quarantine Dues	8,270 5 0	8,522 10 3	252 5 3	—
Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,633 18 1½	5,646 11 8¾	12 13 7¼	—
Fees and Reimbursements	21,155 9 0¾	23,113 11 0¾	1,958 2 0	—
Post Office	13,233 6 9	16,218 18 4	2,985 11 7	—
Railway	7,020 16 3	6,817 19 9¾	—	202 16 5¼
Water Service...	9,006 14 7½	10,114 7 2	1,107 12 6½	—
Electric Lighting	346 17 3	9,122 14 2	8,775 16 11	—
Rent, Rural	13,308 2 9¼	12,834 7 5¼	—	473 15 4
Rent, Urban	27,713 3 4¾	27,257 12 3¼	—	455 11 1½
Rents on account of Charitable Foundations	4,042 7 6¾	3,923 5 2¾	—	119 2 4
Interest	27,492 7 8½	27,507 16 4	15 8 7½	—
Total ... ... £	313,680 14 7	323,787 5 10½	15,107 10 6¼	5,000 19 2¾

The items of revenue which contributed principally to the increase were the following :—

(*a*) Harbour and Quarantine Dues,

(*b*) Fees and Reimbursements,

(*c*) Post Office,

(*d*) Water Service,

(*e*) Electric Lighting.

There was on the other hand a decrease of revenue under the following items :—

(*a*) Customs,

(*b*) Railway,

(*c*) Rents, Rural,

(*d*) Rents, Urban,

(*e*) Rents—Charitable Foundations.

It is a matter of gratification to observe, with reference to Harbour and Quarantine Dues (*a*), that in the year under review a larger number of vessels than in the previous years entered our harbours for coaling or for other commercial purposes, and although the amount of Tonnage Dues received over that of 1896 was not in itself large, yet it may be taken as an omen of a possible future improvement of our Harbour Trade.

The increase of £1,958 2*s.* under head "Fees and Reimbursements" (*b*) is due principally to larger returns from store rent and wages of Revenue Guards, &c., consequent to larger quantities of dutiable goods and coffee being deposited in the Government Warehouses or placed under Revenue Guards, as well as to larger receipts accrued from fees for treatment in Hospitals and Asylums, and from Public Registry Fees.

The Postal Department (*c*) earned a larger revenue than in the previous year on almost all heads. But the amount of the increase (£2,985 11*s.* 7*d.*) must not be taken as a normal standard of the general improvement of the revenue of that concern, inasmuch as that amount includes a sum representing arrears of international transit rates received in 1897 on account of 1895 and 1896 on behalf of the local Mail Steamer "Carola" which is subsidized by the Malta Government. It is, however, to be noticed that the Post Office, judging from the larger returns obtained on the sale of stamps, and the transactions on Parcel

MALTA. 1897.

Mails inwards, continues to improve its revenue, as may be seen from the following figures :—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue in 1895	13,337	17	9
„ 1896	13,233	6	9
„ 1897	16,218	18	4

The Water Service (*d*), which is another undertaking from which a source of revenue is derived, gave an increase of £1,107 12*s*. 6½*d*. The expansion of receipts accruing annually from this enterprise shows that householders are learning year after year that a supply of wholesome water is fully worth the small sacrifice they are called upon to undergo for payment of meter rent and of the water dues in excess of their gratis allowance. Commercially, this enterprise is carried on at a loss, due especially to the gratis allowance of three gallons per head per day above mentioned, but the benefit to the public health experienced by the general community counterbalances such commercial loss. The progressive expansion of this revenue is shown by the following figures :—

	£	s.	d.
In 1895 Water Dues and Meter Rents...	6,701	3	10
In 1896 „ „ ...	7,442	7	5
In 1897 „ „ ...	7,573	4	10

With regard to Electric Lighting (*e*), I stated in my last report that it was then premature to offer any remarks on the revenue derivable under that head, the installation having then commenced to operate in the last month of that year. During 1897 the receipts obtained by this new municipal undertaking amounted to £9,122 14*s*. 2*d*. ; of this sum, the largest proportion (£6,947 15*s*. 6*d*.) was paid by the Government itself for street lighting, the remaining balance representing receipts obtained from lighting military and public buildings and private establishments. The capital laid out for the installation yields an interest of 2¾ carried revenue, besides setting aside 1¼ per cent. for a Reserve and Renewal Fund. It is to be noted that the cost to the public for street lighting by the adoption of electricity as illuminant has increased, but on the other hand, it is universally admitted that by the installation of the electric light, a much superior quality and quantity of lighting power has been obtained as a set off against such increased expenditure.

The Customs revenue, unlike previous years, gave last year a diminution in its receipts amounting to £3,749 14*s*. Such

decrease is chiefly attributable to a diminution in the importation of bullocks and frozen meat, due to the abnormally large stock of frozen meat introduced in December 1896, in consequence of which no large supplies for consumption by the population were required for importation in 1897. Another cause of the decrease of the Customs duties was the reduced importation of wheat. The frequent fluctuations in the market, consequent on American speculation for raising the price of this commodity, naturally deterred local merchants from importing any considerable quantities in excess of actual requirements.

The receipts of the Railway Department have fallen off by £202 16*s.* 5¼*d.* in consequence of a decrease in the passenger traffic. No positive explanation can be given of the cause of the diminished traffic during the year, but it is supposed that the general public, after the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee festivals, did not resort in large numbers to Notabile and other villages on the occasion of the other annual festivities.

The following figures show the revenue earned by this undertaking in the last three years, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1895	5,963	2	0
In 1896	7,020	16	3
In 1897	6,817	19	9¾

With regard to the revenue derived from the landed estate of the Government, including that of the Charitable Foundations, a small diminution has been experienced which is chiefly attributable, as regards rural rents, to the existing continued agricultural depression. The decrease in the rental of urban tenements is due to the fact that a smaller number of arrears of previous years were collected in 1897, and that certain tenements previously yielding an annual rent have now been allotted free of charge for special public services. The following table shows the rental received from the landed property of the Government in the last three years :—

Year.	Urban.			Rural.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1895	27,233	16	6	13,368	9	10
1896	27,713	3	4¾	13,308	2	9¼
1897	27,257	12	3¼	12,834	7	5¼

MALTA, 1897.

EXPENDITURE.

The provisions voted for expenditure by the Legislature, or granted by Special Authority of the head of the Government, out of the revenue of the year 1897 and out of the General Reserve Fund, amounted in the aggregate to the following sums, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Chargeable to revenue	360,934	16	0
Chargeable to Reserve Fund ...	25,318	8	6
Total ...	£386,253	4	6

This amount was allocated in the estimates as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
For personal emoluments	132,620	12	2
Other charges and works	253,632	12	4
Total ...	£386,253	4	6

The amount actually expended was as shown hereunder :—

	£	s.	d.
Out of revenue	320,710	6	3
Out of Reserve Fund	3,963	1	7
Total ...	£324,673	7	10

The expenditure incurred out of general revenue was below the total revenue received by £3,076 19*s.* 7½*d.*, and below the total amount provided in voted estimates by £40,224 9*s.* 9*d.*

The General Reserve Fund, which had originally been instituted out of surplus revenues to meet any emergency requiring large special expenditure, commenced to be appropriated for the construction of certain works and other services which could not be defrayed out of revenue. This fund amounted at the beginning

of 1897 to £39,905 6*s.* 10¼*d.*; out of this sum £25,318 8*s.* 6*d.* were voted for certain services, of which, however, only £3,963 1*s.* 7*d.* were actually spent during the year. For the purposes of this report the expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund will be dealt with conjointly with that defrayed out of revenue.

The following comparative return shows in detail the expenditure incurred in 1897, under each respective head of service, exclusive of that chargeable to the Immovable Property Account:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Personal Emoluments.			Other Charges.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Interest and burthens	—			17,895	1	11	17,895	1	11
2. Pensions	—			16,886	17	6	16,886	17	6
3. The Government and Legislature.	4,762	19	1	492	12	9	5,255	11	10
4. Chief Secretary ...	3,620	6	2	594	11	0	4,214	17	2
5. Receiver-General ...	2,596	5	10	486	11	10	3,082	17	8
6. Customs and Port Department.	9,011	7	4	2,647	7	7	11,658	14	11
7. Audit Department ...	1,596	10	0	67	12	8	1,664	2	8
8. Printing Office ...	1,000	18	2	115	10	1	1,116	8	3
9. Railway Department ...	2,573	1	2	3,229	5	10	5,802	7	0
9A. Railway Special Expenditure.	—			1,085	4	2	1,085	4	2
10. Legal Department ...	15,899	15	0	3,128	7	9	19,028	2	9
11 Police Department ...	33,382	8	11	5,348	4	4	38,730	13	3
11A. Public Health Department.	6,950	4	7	4,841	5	1	11,791	9	8
12. Prisons...	1,540	10	4	2,853	16	5	4,394	6	9
13. Charitable Institutions	12,242	4	8	31,765	15	6	44,008	0	2
14. Educational Department.	18,901	16	2	3,066	18	1	21,968	14	3
15. Post Office	4,375	15	4	9,507	19	8	13,883	15	0
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure.	125	0	0	631	13	6	756	13	6
17. Military Expenditure	—			5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
18. Miscellaneous Services	—			12,205	6	6	12,205	6	6
19. Superintendent of Public Works Department.	4,494	8	0	878	12	1	5,373	0	1
19A. Superintendent of Water Works and Electric Light Department.	4,766	18	9½	18,979	18	3½	23,746	17	1
20. Public Works annually recurrent.	—			40,337	4	7½	40,337	4	7½
21. Public Works and Water Works extraordinary.	—			10,823	19	6½	10,823	19	6½
21*a*. Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	—			—			3,963	1	7
Total ...£	127,840	9	6½	192,869	16	8½	324,673	7	10

MALTA. 1897.

The comparative yearly expenditure of this Government for the last three years was as follows :—

Year.	Personal Emoluments.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1895	118,607 1 2	182,943 15 7¼	301,550 16 9¼
1896	123,091 18 7	185,810 15 9¾	308,902 14 4¾
1897	127,840 9 6½	196,832 18 3½	324,673 7 10

The heads of service under which an appreciable increase of expenditure was incurred in 1897 over that of the preceding year are :—

(*a*) Pensions,

(*b*) Customs and Port Department,

(*c*) Public Health Department,

(*d*) Prisons,

(*e*) Charitable Institutions,

(*f*) Post Office,

(*g*) Miscellaneous,

(*h*) Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department.

The circumstances which caused the augmented expenditure under each of the above stated heads of service were chiefly the following :—

(*a*) The high rates of pensions awarded during the year to certain Government Officers ;

(*b*) The employment of a larger number of Health Guards owing to quarantine restrictions, the allowances to Medical Officers, &c., and cost of supplies on the occasion of the landing of the troops on Comino Island, in quarantine ;

(*c*) Increase to salaries and wages of portion of the staff, and extra remunerations to certain Professional Officers, and extraordinary expenditure consequent to the transfer of the French Creek Pumping Station to another locality ;

(*d*) The high price of certain provisions ;

(*e*) The cost of the Charitable Institutions absorbs a large portion of the public revenue. The expenditure incurred last year exceeds that of 1896 by £1,604 1*s.* 8¼*d.* Such increase is due to larger number of cases treated in the Hospitals or admitted into the Asylums than in preceding years, and also to the higher price of bread in the contract for that year.

The total expenditure in each of the last three years was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1895	41,191	16	3
In 1896	42,403	18	5¾
In 1897	44,008	0	2

(*f*) The extension of the business in the Postal Department carries necessarily with it a proportionate increase of its expenditure.

The largest part of this increase is due to the fact that the Department was called upon to pay within 1897 arrears of International Transit Rates of previous years. As a matter of fact, however, the revenue earned in 1897 by the Department fully covered its expenditure.

(*g*) The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" is due to the drawback of duty for cattle and frozen meat imported for the use of the Army and Navy, which in former years used to remain in suspense, but which under Ordinance No. II. of 1896 is uniformly paid to the Customs Department by the importers, subject to be refunded as drawback to the Military and Naval Departments on certificates of disposal. The sum paid in excess of previous year for this service was, in 1897, £2,260 19*s.* 5*d.*

(*h*) As stated before, the year under review is the first in which the Installation for Electric Lighting has been in operation; it follows therefore that the expenditure under this head of service, as compared with that of the previous year, when the installation was running for only one month, must necessarily be very large. But independently of the expenditure for electricity, the Waterworks expenditure was larger in 1897 than that of the previous year, owing principally to heavier pumping during the summer months and to the purchase of a larger supply than usual of meters to meet the increasing demand for the installation of house services.

MALTA. 1897.

The heads of service on account of which a diminution of expenditure was obtained during this year were the following :—

(*a*) Burthens and Interest.

(*b*) Legal Departments.

(*c* and *d*) Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

As regards the first (*a*), such diminution is due principally to the smaller balance voted in 1897 as a subsidy to the formation of the General Reserve Fund, and as regards the second head (*b*), to the abolition of the situations of Syndics of the Country Districts.

The expenditure on public works, whether recurrent or extraordinary (*c* and *d*) was, during the year, the following :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Recurrent	40,337	4	7½
Extraordinary—			
Out of revenue ... £10,823 19 6½			
Out of General Reserve Fund. 3,963 1			
	14,787	1	1½
Total	£55,124	5	9

It will be observed that, even with the addition of the works defrayed out of the General Reserve Fund, the expenditure by the Public Works Department was below that of the previous year. The provisions taken in the various estimates for recurrent and extraordinary works, including those under General Reserve Fund, amounted collectively to £97,939 14*s.*, whilst the sum actually expended was £55,124 5*s.* 9*d.*, leaving balances at the end of the year available for suspended and uncompleted works to an amount of £42,815.

The following are the most important works defrayed out of revenue and Reserve Fund (exclusive of those chargeable to the Immovable Property Account Fund) during the year, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(1) Towards construction of new Abattoir...	1,450	0	4
(2) Remodelling and constructing roads and streets, &c.	3,948	18	5
(3) Waterworks (exclusive of maintenance)	3,318	9	5
Carried forward	8,717	8	2

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	8,717	8	2
(4) Improving property yielding rent ...	3,802	10	3½
(5) Asylum for Lepers	818	16	1
(6) Improving public buildings, including lazaretto accommodation for cattle.	4,228	2	2½
(7) Constructing and improving Customs House stores and verandahs.	1,031	18	3
(8) Improving buildings of the Charitable Institutions and Hospitals.	2,719	7	5
(9) Constructing basin for boats at the Marsa	406	14	10½
(10) Constructing camber for boats near the Custom House.	576	15	2½
(11) Constructing a quarantine establishment at Comino Island.	1,862	5	5
Total	£24,163	17	11

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT FUND.

The provisions voted in 1897, under Ordinance V. of 1891, as chargeable to the above fund, were the following :—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Installation of Electricity for Sliema ...	5,500	0	0
(2) Railway—Additional provision for railway carriages.	138	18	2
(3) Primary Schools—Additional provision for the new school house at Rabato.	31	16	9
Total	£5,670	14	11

The actual expenditure out of the above votes and the balances carried forward from votes taken in previous years under this fund was to the following amounts, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Railway Works—including extension of the line to Imtarfa.	3,354	12	7
Establishment of Lighting by Electricity ...	9,871	3	5½
New school at Hamrun	299	17	9
Court House, Police Station, &c., at Zeitun	246	10	9
Total	£13,772	4	6½

MALTA. 1897.

leaving unexpended balances amounting to £23,782 18*s.* 4¼*d.* as standing to the credit of the different works voted out of this fund in various estimates since the passing of the aforementioned Ordinance.

The balances standing to the credit of the fund (both Government and Pius Foundations) was, on the 31st December 1897, £5,698 18*s.* 0¼*d.*

LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government met 22 times in 1897, during the periods between the 17th February and 12th May and the 27th October and the 22nd December, when it was adjourned to the 19th January of the current year.

Of the fifteen Ordinances passed only six are of sufficient importance to require notice in this report, the others being for the most part of a formal character and such as contained amendments in the existing laws.

Ordinance No. I. of 1897 gives power to the head of the Government to raise, by the issue of bonds, any sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate a total of £150,000, to be exclusively applied for works of drainage in the most thickly peopled districts of Malta and Gozo.

The authority thus granted to the head of the Government is subject to the condition that "no bonds shall be issued for any sum or sums before an estimate for each particular section of such drainage works shall have been sanctioned by the Council of Government."

Every bond is to be for a sum not exceeding £1,000, and not less than £10, and to bear interest at the rate of 2½ per cent.; it is to be transferable by delivery, and liable to be paid off at 101 per cent. of the nominal value at any time after five years from the date thereof at the pleasure of the Government, provided that no less than 6 months' notice be given by an advertisement in the Government Gazette of the intention of the Government to pay off such bond or part thereof.

An amendment was proposed to the Government draft by an elected member, and passed by the Council, to the effect that steps are to be taken by the head of the Government with a view to this loan being placed on the list of securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Ordinance No. II. empowers the head of the Government to make plans for regulating the alignment of buildings in any inhabited place in which the defective arrangements of building is to be remedied, and for regulating the extension of building area.

The necessity of this measure has long been evident, in view of the fact that buildings in inhabited places were rapidly being set up without discrimination. The police laws contained provisions to the effect that houses be built in accordance with the requirements of sanitation; but builders of houses could not be compelled, previously to the enactment of this Ordinance, to observe, in the reconstruction of old buildings or in the erection of new buildings, such lines as might ensure healthiness of groups of buildings and the systematic arrangement of communications.

Ordinance No. III. "To amend Ordinance No. XII. of 1889, intituled 'For the better control and management of the University and other Educational Establishments,'" when first introduced, was simply intended to enable the Senate of the University to give execution to its intermediate decisions without the previous sanction of the Governor.

The provision which the Ordinance contained to that effect was rejected. Meanwhile the Government was compelled to enquire into the state of the Education Department. With this object in view, a Select Committee of the Council was appointed to enquire into and report upon the organization of the University and of the Elementary Schools, and on any reform that might be considered necessary in the then existing law which governed that department. The Committee to whom the Draft Ordinance in question was referred having unanimously recommended that the Senate of the University should be abolished, steps were taken in the Council to give effect to that recommendation, with the result of the passing of the four articles which form part of the present Ordinance, by which Ordinance No. XII. of 1889 was repealed.

The first of these articles provides that the second chapter of the Statute of the University referring to the constitution and powers of the Senate of the University is repealed, and that the Lyceum and the University of Malta shall be governed by that Statute.

By the second article the powers that the Senate had in matters over which the Director of Education had no authority were transferred to the Governor.

Article 3 and Article 4 were inserted in order to vest in the Council of Government the exclusive power of preventing any alteration of the Statute of the University in which the majority of the Council did not concur.

Ordinance No. IV. is intituled "To amend some provisions of the Criminal Laws relating to Bail."

By this measure the provision of the Criminal Laws, according to which persons under arrest, accused of crimes and contraventions, may obtain their temporary release on sufficient bail to

MALTA. 1897.

appear at all the proceedings of the cause, at any time and place they may be directed to attend, may now be extended to any case in which the requirements of the public order do not make it absolutely unadvisable that such provisional release should be granted.

The previous law, according to which provisional release could be granted, except in the case of offences punishable with detention or with imprisonment or with hard labour for less than one year, deprived the great majority of arrested persons of the benefit of bail.

The term of imprisonment to which the judge could, in accordance with the verdict of the jury, condemn the prisoner had often been exceeded by the time during which the latter had been kept in arrest awaiting trial.

Ordinance No. VI. regulates the duty on oil, which is now established at (*a*) sixpence per caffiso (4½ imperial gallons) on oil of every description, with the exception of linseed oil, of other oils used as medicine, and of any oils which, being unfit for food, are intended for industrial purposes; and (*b*) at one shilling per caffiso on cotton seed oil, or any oil containing any mixture of cotton seed oil.

This measure originated in a report made by the Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that cotton seed oil was being mixed with olive oil and sold as olive oil. The Collector of Customs supported the report, and called attention to the loss that the revenue was suffering by such mixture in connection with the duty on olive oil.

With a view of preventing importers of cotton seed oil from deceiving the public and defrauding the Treasury, a duty of one shilling per caffiso has been imposed on cotton seed oil, or any oil containing any mixture of cotton seed oil, which duty, as compared with the duty of sixpence per caffiso on olive oil, was considered sufficient to check fraud.

Ordinance No. VII. was introduced with the view (*a*) of consolidating in one Act all the laws concerning prisons; (*b*) of giving power to the head of the Government to appropriate adequate places in the country districts of Malta for the detention of prisoners accused of crimes, pending the enquiry into the charge by the Court of Judicial Police sitting in those districts; and (*c*) of appropriating adequate places for the detention of prisoners in addition to, or in substitution for, the prisons in the Palace of the Court of Justice in Malta and the prison of the "Gran Castello" in Gozo.

The necessity that the Government should have the power mentioned at (*b*) arose in consequence of the promulgation of Ordinance No. III. of 1896, abolishing the office of Syndics, by

which power was given to the Court of Judicial Police for the Island of Malta to exercise its jurisdiction in the country districts as a Court of Criminal Instruction in certain cases. As in such cases the accused has sometimes to be detained in prison, it became necessary that the law should give power to the Governor to establish places of detention where prisoners might be conveniently confined during the preliminary proceedings.

The expediency of giving to the Governor the power mentioned at (*c*) was suggested by the consideration that many unforeseen circumstances might make it necessary to transfer the prisoners from the places in which they have to be confined in the prison attached to the Courts, or in Gozo, to other places.

Ordinance No. XV. amends Ordinance No. II. of 1896, intituled "To impose a duty on imported meat, and to make provisions respecting the importation thereof."

The principal amendment affects the measures respecting the importation of fresh or frozen meat. According to present law "no fresh or frozen meat will be allowed to be imported into these islands, unless a certificate be produced by the importer, signed by the Government Inspector of the place of exportation stating that the meat has been inspected by him and found to be free from any disease, or unless, where there be no such Inspector at the place of exportation, a certificate be produced by the importer stating that no cattle disease of any sort was known to exist in the district where the animal was slaughtered at the time of slaughtering, and that the animals were inspected by a qualified veterinary surgeon and were found in good health. Any of the certificates mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be signed by the British Consular Authority, and, where there be no such an authority, by the proper Government Officer or Municipal Authority of the district in which the Inspector resides, or in which the animal was slaughtered."

No fresh meat shall be allowed to be landed and no piece of frozen meat shall be allowed to be stored in the frozen meat stores before it is stamped by Custom House officials.

The refund of duty payable by this Government to the Imperial Government will be calculated on the amount of duty paid on such quantity of meat which, from a declaration by the Military and Naval Authorities and the books kept by them, shall appear to have been disposed of by the Imperial Government and actually issued as rations.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

His Excellency Sir Arthur James Lyon Fremantle, G.C.M.G., C.B., left Malta on leave on the 31st July, and Major-General

the Lord Congleton, C.B., administered the Government as Deputy Governor from that date to the 10th September, when His Excellency returned and resumed the Government.

The Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., Collector of Customs, acted as Chief Secretary to Government during my absence on leave from the 6th June to the 10th October, the duties of his office having been performed by the Deputy Collector.

Mr. Lorenzo Gatt, C.E., was appointed Superintendent of Public Works in the room of Mr. Paolo Trapani, pensioned; and Mr. Napoleone Tagliaferro, Assistant Director of Education, appointed Director of Education in lieu of Dr. A. A. Caruana, pensioned.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The number of depositors in Malta and Gozo at the end of the year was 6,614, against 6,402 for 1896, the amount to their credit £514,878 18*s.* 9¼*d.*, of which £113,963 16*s.* 7*d.* had been deposited during the year.

The invested funds amounted to £491,227 12*s.* 2*d.*, and the interest derived therefrom to £13,287 18*s.* 6*d.*, which left a net profit of £4,913 10*s.* on the year's transactions.

These banks receive deposits from one shilling to any amount, but interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is only allowed on deposits of 5*s.* and on every additional sum of 5*s.* up to £100. Sums of money deposited in the name of any one person exceeding £100 are considered as placed in the banks for safe custody and do not bear interest.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total imports in 1897 amounted to £10,895,639, against £10,472,139 in 1896, showing a decrease of £423,492. Of the above imports, £150,484 came from the United Kingdom, £9,087 from British Colonies, and £10,736,068 from foreign countries.

The following table shows a comparison between the values of the imports in 1896 and 1897, exclusive of articles not subject to duty, from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries, respectively :—

—	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.		Foreign Countries.		Total.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	71,769	75,024	—	—	96	51	451	803	72,316	75,878
Cattle :—										
Beef	12,565	7,333	38,225	8,125	13	—	216,577	88,529	267,380	103,987
Horses	288	1,224	22	—	—	—	4,592	5,253	4,902	6,477
Mules	—	112	—	—	—	—	520	1,152	520	1,264
Grain :—										
Wheat	1,265	1,768	91,468	83,700	—	—	7,620,205	7,008,813	7,712,938	7,094,281
Indian Corn	4	—	—	—	—	—	325,997	624,714	326,001	624,714
Barley	17	4	—	—	—	—	1,118,499	1,619,811	1,118,516	1,619,815
Saggina	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,209	9,278	9,209	9,278
Inferior	—	11	—	—	—	—	585,704	771,287	585,704	771,298
Damaged	1	4	—	—	—	—	31	58	32	62
Manufactured ...	25,588	34,694	—	—	31	215	25,634	42,962	51,253	77,871
Do. damaged ...	112	124	—	—	112	—	1	81	225	205
Oil	3,710	5,223	—	—	—	1	37,547	47,340	41,257	52,564
Potatoes...	19,838	16,038	—	—	1	4	9,029	13,421	28,868	29,493
Pulse	935	412	—	566	9	4	47,481	191,090	48,425	192,072
Seeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,596	36,273	27,596	36,273
Spirits	5,823	6,496	1	—	29	24	29,535	43,555	35,388	50,075
Vinegar	112	158	—	—	—	—	57	98	169	256
Wine	1,602	1,818	—	38	123	59	139,715	147,861	141,440	149,776
Total ...£	143,629	150,473	129,716	92,429	414	358	10,198,380	10,652,379	10,472,139	10,895,639

Of the above total imports the sum of £905,006 represents the value of cargoes actually landed at this port in 1897, against £885,315 in 1896, and £9,990,633, against £9,586,824 in 1896, is the value of cargoes which proceeded in the same vessels.

Again, the value of exports from portions of the articles which were actually landed amounted to £80,567, so that the sum of £824,439 represents the value of the goods imported for local consumption in 1897, against £842,039 in the previous year.

An inspection of the Customs returns shows an increase in the imports from the United Kingdom for home consumption in the following articles :—

Beer, 91,451 barrels (1 barrel = 9½ imperial gallons) at 15*s.* 6*d.*, against 87,495 barrels at 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1896 ;

Horses, 51 (at £24), against 12 (at £24) ;

Wheat, 641 salme (1 salma = 1 imperial quarter) at 35*s.* per salma, against 15 salme at 25*s.*

Oil (cotton seed), 4,595 caffisi (1 caffiso = 4½ imperial gallons) at 9*s.*, against 14 caffisi at 13*s.* ;

Spirits 7,520 barrels (at 15*s.*), against 7,445 (at 14*s.*) ;

There was on the other hand a falling off in the following articles :—

Manufactured wheat fell from 25,899 cantars (1 cantar = 175 lbs.) at 17*s.* 6*d.* to 22,263 cantars at 25*s.* ;

Potatoes fell from 46,985 cantars (at 7*s.*) to 31,992 cantars (at 8*s.*) ;

Wine (superior) fell from 1,199 barrels to 1,105 barrels.

EXPORTS.

There being no export duty in Malta, the following figures refer only to articles subject to import duty which have been exported in the same vessels or from bond or were transhipped.

The total exports in 1897 amounted in value to £10,088,760, of which £80,567 represent the value of goods actually brought into the island and re-exported, and £10,008,193 the value of goods re-exported in the same bottoms.

The following return shows the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other destinations respectively, in 1896 and 1897 :—

——	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	2,359.890	1,784,834
British Colonies ...	2,899,046	1,891,114
H.M.'s Ships ...	3,181	9,103
Foreign Countries ...	6,624,032	6,403,709
Totals	11,886.149	10,088,760
Decrease in 1897 ...	—	1,797,389

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1897 were :—Wheat, valued at £1,381,129, against £2,074,682 in 1896; Indian corn, £56,653, against £72,987; barley, £201,227, against £128,933; inferior grain, £39,565, against £9,170; and pulse, £105,773, against £73,661 in 1896; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued at £2,169; horses, £832; mules, £1,260; manufactured grain, £5,872; olive oil, £7,498; cotton seed oil, £4,478; potatoes, £2,009; spirits, £34,413, and wine, valued at £3,508, were the chief exports to foreign countries.

SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of British and foreign vessels entered and cleared for the last two years is shown below :—

Entered.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage entered.	
		1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
				Tons.	Tons.
British	Steam ...	1,556	1,673	2,312,640	2,619,626
„	Sailing ...	109	116	10,856	11,667
Foreign... ...	Steam ...	984	1,024	891,161	943,520
„	Sailing ...	1,137	1,298	78,543	62,613
Total		3,786	4,111	3,293,200	3,637,426
Increase in 1897 ...		—	325	—	344,226

Cleared.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage cleared.	
		1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
				Tons.	Tons.
British	Steam ...	1,563	1,668	2,311,942	2,614,648
„	Sailing ...	97	117	9,663	12,031
Foreign... ...	Steam ...	990	1,020	895,328	917,449
„	Sailing ...	1,117	1,292	74,215	62,914
Total		3,767	4,097	3,291,148	3,607,042
Increase in 1897 ...		—	330	—	315,894

The movement of the trade in 1897 was as follows :—

Tonnage entered from		Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom		1,055,739	358	1,056,097
British Colonies		22,206	240	22,446
China	Viâ the Suez Canal.	52,438	—	52,438
India		335,092	—	335,092
Java		6,595	—	6,595
Australia		34,158	—	34,158
Foreign Countries		2,056,918	73,682	2,130,600
Total		3,563,146	74,280	3,637,426

Tonnage Cleared.

Countries to which departed.		Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
		Tons	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom		811,854	—	811,854
British Colonies		185,049	811	185,860
Australia	Viâ the Suez Canal.	61	—	61
China		50,284	—	50,284
India		376,549	—	376,549
Japan		12,469	—	12,469
Java		3,336	—	3,336
Manilla		2,165	—	2,165
Russia		2,970	—	2,970
Foreign Countries		2,087,360	74,134	2,161,494
Total		3,532,097	74,945	3,607,042

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of persons confined in the gaols during 1897 was 5,967, of whom 4,289 were men, 619 women, 1,046 boys, and 13 girls. Of these 6 were committed for debt, 236 for safe custody pending trial, or for want of bail, and 5,728 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The number of persons committed to penal imprisonment, including hard labour, was as follows :—

21 for five years or more,
82 for one year or more, but less than five years,
560 for more than three months and less than one year,
5,078 for three months or less.

The daily average in the gaols was 268, against 261 in 1896.

The number of punishments inflicted was 248 against 286 in 1896, viz. :—

	No.
Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	143
Dark cell on bread and water	2
Reduction from class	16
Admonished	87
Total	248

MALTA. 1897.

The total cost of the prisons (Corradino, Valletta, and Gozo Prison) amounted to £4,172 4*s.*, against £3,812 6*s.* 11*d.* in 1896.

	£
The estimated value of labour performed by male labour outside the prison (building, stone-cutting, reclaiming waste land and produce of prison lands), was	400
Inside—tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering, whitewashing, basket, mat and broom making, &c.	580
Sale of animals	10
Total	£990

The health of the prisoners was satisfactory, the daily average on sick list having been 3 ; 25 cases were treated in hospital ; and only one death occurred, from purpora hæmorrhagica.

Hospitals and Asylums.

The total expenditure for the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo during the financial year 1896-97 amounted to £41,616 19*s.* 4*d.*, against £39,781 15*s.* in 1895-96, showing an increase of £1,835 4*s.* 4*d.*

The following table gives the particulars relating to each institution :—

Hospitals.

Hospital.	In the Hospital on 1st January 1897.	Admitted During the Year.	Discharged as Cured.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
Central Hospital	157	2,444	2,170	272	169
Seamen's Hospital.	11	89	89	2	8
Santo Spirito Hospital.	62	434	387	41	70
Gozo Hospital...	35	386	336	60	30
Totals ...	265	3,353	2,982	375	277

Asylums.

Asylum.	Inmates Remaining on 31st December 1896.	Admitted During the Year 1897.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:					
1. Aged and Infirm	702	158	27	145	659
2. Incurables ...	190	42	3	18	194
3. Lepers	18	11	3	8	18
Lunatic asylum ...	591	138	68	33	605
Orphan asylum ...	96	12	10	1	95
Totals	1,597	361	116	205	1,571

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Police or to the Magistrates in 1897 was 7,567, against 9,672 in 1896.

Of the offences reported, 974 were for offences against the person ; 43 were for offences against the good order of families ; 408 were for offences against property; 6,142 were for other offences.

The number of persons apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates was 11,940, of whom 10,911 were summarily convicted, 838 discharged for want of evidence or otherwise acquitted, and 191 were committed for trial.

Of the convictions in the Inferior Courts, 1,082 were for offences against the person ; 14 were for offences against the good order of families ; 434 were for offences against property ; 9,381 were for other offences.

The convictions in the Superior Courts are classified as follows :—

61 for offences against the person ; 18 for offences against the

MALTA. 1897.

good order of families; 33 for offences against property; and 8 for other offences.

The acquittals were are follows :—In the Inferior Courts, 838; in the Superior Courts, 71.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The returns of the meteorological observations taken at St. Ignatius' College show as follows :—

(Lat. 35° 55′ N., Long. 14° 29′ E. Barometer readings reduced to 32° F. at sea level.)

Mean atmospheric pressure for the year 30·058 inches; mean temperature of the air 64·2°; mean degree of humidity 75; mean hourly velocity of the wind 10·5 miles; fall of rain 14·216 inches (against a mean of 19·701 of last 14 years); number of days on which rain fell 81. The minimum of rain fell in September, 0·050 inches; the maximum in December, 3·970 inches.

Hail fell on 5 days; there was an unprecedentedly severe hail-storm at 1.5 a.m. on the 23rd January. Hailstones of hard ice, some as big as a hen's egg, fell for several minutes, causing much damage to skylights and windows facing westwards.

The highest reading of maximum thermometer in the shade was 97·8° on the 14th September, in the sun it was 159·7° on the 15th July. The lowest temperature was 39·4°, on the 31st January.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 270.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 243.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE. EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32. ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C. 9498-4.] *Price* 3*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
241	Trinidad and Tobago	1897
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada...	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 270.

MALTA.

MALTA, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 243.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace, Valletta,
20th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1898, drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 31st January last.

2. The printing of the Blue Book will soon be completed, and copies thereof will be transmitted to you at the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.,
F. GRENFELL,
Governor.

3204*—75—6/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

MALTA, 1898.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Valletta,
13th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report of the Malta Blue Book for 1898 :—

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The revenue collected in 1898 amounted to £332,488 18*s.* 1*d.*, being £2,769 18*s.* 1*d.* above the estimate, and £8,701 12*s.* 2½*d.* in excess of the revenue of the previous year.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for the last two years classified under each head :—

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1897.	Amount Collected in 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1. Customs - -	172,707 12 1	176,648 19 7	3,941 7 6	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.	8,522 10 3	8,723 16 6	201 6 3	—
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,646 11 8¾	5,549 3 3¼	—	97 8 5
4. Fees and Reimbursements.	23,113 11 0¾	24,266 10 4	1,152 19 3½	—
5. Post Office - -	16,218 18 4	15,781 12 0	—	437 6 4
5A. Railway - -	6,817 19 9¾	7,108 3 3½	290 3 5¾	—
6. Water Service -	10,114 7 2	10,698 2 8	583 15 6	—
6A. Electric Lighting -	9,122 14 2	11,236 8 1	2,113 13 11	—
7. Rents, Rural - -	12,834 7 5¼	13,054 19 0½	220 11 7¼	—
8. Rents, Urban - -	27,257 12 3¼	27,507 14 2¾	250 1 11½	—
9. Rents on account of Pious Foundations.	3,923 5 2¾	3,933 2 6¼	9 17 3½	—
10. Interest - - -	27,507 16 4	27,980 6 6¾	472 10 2¾	—
Total -	323,787 5 10½	332,488 18 1	9,236 7 0	534 14 9½

For the purpose of a wider comparison I subjoin hereunder another table giving the revenue of the last five years preceding the year under review:—

Year.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.
1893	291,157 10 3½
1894	301,858 13 9¼
1895	305,440 14 3¾
1896	313,680 14 7
1897	323,787 5 10½
Average	307,184 19 9
1898	332,488 18 1
Above average in 1898 ...	25,303 18 4

It will be seen from the foregoing table that the increase of revenue over that of last year was chiefly contributed by (*a*) Customs, (*b*) Harbour and Quarantine Dues, (*c*) Fees and Reimbursements, (*d*) Railway, (*e*) Water Service, (*f*) Electric Lighting, (*g*) Rents of Rural and Urban Property, and (*h*) Interest; whilst the decrease was on (*a*) Licences and Court Fines, and (*b*) Post Office.

The largest increase to the revenue was earned by the recuperative powers of our Customs (*a*), and is mostly due to a larger importation during the year of flour, cattle, and potatoes, and also to the levying of duty on cotton-seed oil. The increased revenue on the above commodities more than makes up the diminution of receipts which has been brought about through a decreased importation of wines during the year.

The next appreciable increase calling for special mention is that of £1,152 9*s.* 3*d.* under head 4 "Fees and Reimbursements" (*c*). It was caused principally by larger returns from receipts of fees paid by patients for treatment in hospitals and asylums, recouped cost of subsistence of non-Maltese convicts in the Corradino Prison, fees collected in the Superior Courts, and Abattoir fees.

MALTA, 1898.

The Railway (*d*) and Water Service (*e*) undertakings have both yielded a somewhat larger revenue than in the year 1897. This may be taken as an evident sign that the general public, admitting the utility of both concerns, freely take advantage of the same. The amount collected under these two heads of revenue during the last five years is shown hereunder :—

Year.	Railway.	Water Dues and Meter Rent.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	5,603 17 0	5,850 13 9½
1895	5,963 2 0	6,701 3 10
1896	7,020 16 3	7,442 7 5
1897	6,817 16 3	7,573 4 10
1898	7,108 3 3½	8,200 12 8

The Electric Lighting Installation, which is another undertaking administered on municipal lines, gave an increased revenue over that of 1897 by £2,113 13*s.* 11*d.*, including £667 5*s.* 2*d.* for house installation. Although the principal contributor to this revenue is the Government, which pays the largest proportion of the receipts for illuminating the streets of the town and the three cities, the increase in the revenue obtained last year is not due to any further contribution for public street lighting, but to larger returns from War Department and private consumers, and to the laying of additional house installations.

The other increases under heads "Harbour and Quarantine Dues" (*b*), "Rents, Rural and Urban" (*g*), and "Interest" (*h*) do not call for any special observations.

On the other hand, the only diminution of revenue (£437 6*s.* 4*d.*) which deserves of being specially explained is that on the receipts of the Postal Department (*b*). This decrease resulted from the fact that the postal revenue of the previous year (1897) had been abnormally swelled by the payment in that year into the Post Office of Arrear International Transit rates which had been overdue since 1895. On other items the Postal Department has kept up the average proportion of its yearly receipts, and its

principal source of revenue, which is the sale of stamps, has shown a progressive annual increase as shown hereunder :—

Year.	Sale of Stamps.
	£ s. d.
1894	9,804 2 4½
1895	10,027 18 11½
1896	11,420 10 10
1897	11,658 9 1½
1898	12,088 9 5

Expenditure.

The authorized expenditure under the Civil List, votes of the Legislature or by authority of the head of the Government (awaiting the covering vote of the Council) amounted collectively in 1898 to the sum of £371,354 8*s.* 4*d.*, of which £23,170 3*s.* 3*d.* was chargeable to the General Reserve Fund.

Out of the above provisions the following was the actual expenditure incurred, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Out of the Consolidated Revenue...	322,900	19	6½
Out of the General Reserve Fund...	16,181	19	8
Total expenditure in 1898 ...	£339,082	19	2½

This expenditure was allocated in the accounts as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For personal emoluments	129,452	1	9
For other charges and works ...	209,630	17	5½
Total ...	£339,082	19	2½

There remained therefore, on the 31st December 1898, unexpended balances to an aggregate amount of £32,271 9*s.* 1½*d.*

The following comparative statement gives in detail the expenditure incurred under each head of service, exclusive of that under Immovable Property Account, which is dealt with hereafter :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount Expended in 1897.	Amount Expended in 1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Interest and Burthens	17,895 1 11	18,977 0 2	1,081 18 3	—
2. Pensions	16,886 17 6	16,713 15 5	—	173 2 1
3. The Governor and Legislature	5,255 11 10	5,677 5 11	421 14 1	—
4. Chief Secretary	4,214 17 2	4,224 8 11	9 11 9	—
5. Receiver General	3,082 17 8	3,034 0 9	—	48 16 11
6. Customs and Port Department	11,658 14 11	11,109 16 7	—	548 18 4
7. Audit Office	1,664 2 8	1,664 19 4	0 16 8	—
8. Printing Office	1,116 8 3	1,194 18 0	78 9 9	—
9 Railway Department	5,802 7 0	6,282 14 5	480 7 5	—
9A. Railway Special Expenditure	1,085 4 2	722 4 8	—	362 19 6
9B. Technical School...	—	535 1 0	535 1 0	—

10. Legal Department	19,028 2 9	19,344 4 8	316 1 11	—
11. Police Department	38,730 13 3	39,956 9 10	1,228 16 7	—
11A. Public Health Department	11,791 9 8	8,947 9 4	—	2,844 0 4
12. Prisons	4,394 6 9	4,289 0 1	—	105 6 8
13. Charitable Institutions	44,008 0 2	47,503 7 4	3,495 7 2	—
14. Educational Department	21,968 14 3	22,573 10 2	604 15 11	—
15. Post Office	13,883 15 0	16,931 2 2	3,047 7 2	—
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	756 13 6	726 7 10	—	30 5 8
17. Military Expenditure	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
18. Miscellaneous Services	12,205 6 6	13,632 11 2½	1,427 4 8½	—
19. Superintendent Public Works Department	5,373 0 1	5,380 14 10	7 14 9	—
19A. Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department	23,746 17 1	25,882 18 3½	2,136 1 2½	—
20. Public Works Recurrent...	40,337 4 7½	40,875 8 6½	538 3 11	—
21. Public Works and Waterworks Extraordinary	10,823 19 6½	1,718 10 1	—	9,105 9 5½
21A. Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund...	3,963 1 7	16,181 19 8	12,218 18 1	—
Total	324,673 7 10	339,082 19 2½	27,628 10 4	13,218 18 11½

The total expenditure of this Government for the last five years was as follows :—

Year.	Chargeable to the Revenue of the Island.	Chargeable to the General Reserve Fund.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	291,682 2 4	—	291,682 2 4
1895	301,550 16 9¼	—	301,550 16 9¼
1896	308,902 14 4¾	—	308,902 14 4¾
1897	320,710 6 3	3,963 1 7	324,673 7 10
1898	322,900 19 6½	16,181 19 8	339,082 19 2½

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT FUND.

The provisions voted in 1898 for expenditure out of this fund amounted to £3,464 as an additional grant for the installation of electric lighting; the actual expenditure incurred out of the above provision and out of the balances carried forward from votes granted in previous years from this fund was as follows :—

	£ s. d.
Railway Works	4,372 16 4
Installation of Lighting by Electricity...	7,560 5 4½
Purchase of Palazzo Parisio (General Post Office)	854 15 1
New School at Cospicua (towards construction)	212 16 10
Court House, Police Station, &c., at Zeitun (completion)	9 1 6
Total	£13,009 15 1½

leaving unexpended balances standing to the credit of the different works defrayable out of this fund to the amount of £14,237 3*s.* 2¾*d.*

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets and liabilities of the Government Treasury on the 31st December 1898 were as summarized hereunder :—

——	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments in Imperial and Colonial Securities.	—			598,386	1	10
Investments in Monte di Pietà ...	—			2,062	11	3¼
Funds deposited with the Anglo-Maltese Bank.	—			14,513	6	3
Funds deposited with the London Westminster Bank.	—			10,123	10	8
Capital laid out for portion of furniture in Governor's Palaces.	—			1,548	9	1
Loans to the Monte di Pietà	—			56,000	0	0
Advances made by Treasury	—			7,189	13	7
Cash	—			6,233	12	11½
Court and other Deposits	61,973	5	7	—		
Dollar Investment Fund	21,937	10	0	—		
Savings Bank	523,340	15	8¾	—		
Pappaffy Emigration Fund	10,025	0	0	—		
Pappaffy Emigration Administrators...	1,615	5	7¼	—		
Deposit for works allocated to the Government Immovable Property under Ordinance V. of 1891.	14,237	3	2¾	—		
Reserve Funds	45,176	17	2¼	—		
Immovable Property Deposit Account	3,305	6	5¼	—		
	681,611	3	9¼	696,057	5	7¾
Total Liabilities				681,611	3	9¼
Surplus...				14,446	1	10½

CURRENCY.

British coins are the only legal tender in these Islands, and the limit up to which silver and bronze coins are received is raised to five pounds and one shilling respectively. Twenty-franc pieces and five-franc pieces, both French and Italian, are merely kept in deposit as articles of merchandize for exportation to the neighbouring centres of trade, such as Tunis, Tripoli, Sicily, and Syria, when a demand arises for them for the purchase of produce, or for the payment of bills payable in francs and lire.

The maximum rate of exchange with London during the year was :—On demand, 6*s.* per £100 ; at 3 days' sight, 5*s.* per £100 ; at 30 days' sight, 4*s.* per £100 ; at 60 days' sight, 2*s.* per £100 ; and 90 days' sight, at par.

The amount of money in circulation fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported and the requirements of the fleet. It is at present roughly estimated at £495,500, of which £400,000 in sovereigns, £15,000 in half sovereigns, and £80,000 in silver coins. The circulation of notes issued by two of the local banks is estimated at £20,000.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In the absence of a statistical department, I am unable to give an official estimate of the exportation of local produce, or of the importation of goods which are not subject to duty.

Unfortunately, the transit trade, which formerly constituted one of the principal resources of the Island, and which has for years been on the decline, may now be considered as almost extinct, importation being practically limited to such goods as may be required for local consumption.

As regards hardware, earthenware, household goods, hosiery, and clothing materials, which are not subject to duty, enough is known to establish the fact that some foreign countries, especially Germany, compete favourably with the United Kingdom, not only because such foreign goods are generally cheaper in price, though sometimes of a quality inferior to that of British goods, but also in view of the activity displayed by the numerous foreign commission agents who scarcely ever return to their country without having secured a considerable number of orders.

As regards articles of food, such as wheat, meat, wine, &c., all of which are subject to duty, the exact value of the imports are given below, showing the increase or decrease on the imports of previous years ; owing, however, to the peculiarities of our

market, very little beyond the fact that an annual increase in the consumption of those articles is due to a regular and steady increase in the population can be inferred from the comparison of the figures of one year with those of the previous years, inasmuch as any extraordinary larger or smaller importation and a consequent larger or smaller collection of revenue during the year is often due to causes which are quite independent of local conditions or of any action which the Government might properly take in the matter.

The following table shows the imports subject to duty for the five years, from 1893 to 1897 :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1893	13,732,030	189,808	58,689	564	13,482,969
1894	13,773,783	171,154	221,888	393	13,380,348
1895	13,099,978	174,350	324,916	236	12,600,476
1896	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
Average for five years.	12,394,713	165,882	165,527	393	12,062,910
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
Below the average...	2,369,582	—	—	—	2,761,389
Above the average...	—	37,635	354,081	92	—

From the above it will seen that whilst the total value of the imports has been reduced, the imports from the United Kingdom and from the British Colonies show an increase, and that the total loss in value is on the imports from foreign countries.

MALTA, 1898.

The following table shows in detail the value of the imports in Kingdom, British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries, the amount of duty collected on the articles landed for local

	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer	75,024	84,370	—	—	51	42
Beef & mutton (preserved)	7,333	224	—	—	—	9
do. (frozen)	—	—	8,125	17,730	—	—
Bullocks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep	—	19	—	—	—	—
Horses	1,224	525	—	40	—	—
Mules	112	240	—	252	—	—
Wheat	1,768	1,959	*83,700	*486,816	—	—
Indian corn	—	20	—	—	—	—
Barley	4	93	—	*14,600	—	—
Saggina	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other inferior grain	11	9	—	—	—	—
Refuse grain	4	2	—	—	—	—
Manufactured grain	34,694	75,294	—	—	215	187
Refuse do.	124	29	—	—	—	—
Oil (olive)	14	10,400	—	—	1	69
Oil (cotton seed)	5,209	8,136	—	—	—	2
Potatoes	16,068	12,917	—	—	4	29
Pulse	412	1,117	566	135	4	6
Seeds	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits	6,496	5,909	—	—	24	21
Vinegar	158	125	—	—	—	—
Wine	1,818	2,129	38	35	59	120
Total	150,473	203,517	92,429	519,608	358	485
Increase in 1898	—	53,044	—	427,179	—	127
Decrease do.	—	-	—	—	—	—

* Proceeded in the

1898, exclusive of articles not subject to duty, from the United as compared with the figures of the preceding year, together with consumption during the same years :—

Foreign Countries.		Total.		Amount of Duty Collected.					
1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.			1898.		
£	£	£	£	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
803	556	75,878	84,968	13,784	9	11	14,977	5	6
—	3	7,333	236	27	0	0	36	0	0
—	—	8,125	17,730	233	14	7	2,955	1	7
87,455	96,995	87,455	96,995	10,224	4	10	11,446	17	4
1,074	1,137	1,074	1,156	187	4	5	218	10	0
5,253	3,976	6,477	4,541	552	0	0	360	0	0
1,152	1,538	1,264	2,030	109	0	0	154	0	0
246,465 *6,762,348	208,094 *5,528,025	248,233 *6,846,048	210,053 *6,014,841	56,056	10	1	50,168	6	9
180 *624,534	230 *576,275	180 *624,534	250 *576,275	65	11	2	83	5	11
5,290 *1,614,521	2,909 *1,883,756	5,294 *1,614,521	3,002 *1,898,356	314	16	3	458	19	9
9,278	13,784	9,278	13,784	1,425	16	9	1,483	16	1
38 *771,249	47 *655,495	49 *771,249	56 *655,495	8	9	4	11	1	6
58	717	62	719	9	3	9	95	14	1
42,962	28,571	77,871	104,052	14,635	5	3	22,282	5	6
81	120	205	149	31	12	0	23	16	9
42,427	29,731	42,442	40,200	832	6	9	521	5	6
4,913	10,677	10,122	18,815	760	3	0	2,340	4	0
13,421	13,475	29,493	26,421	2,483	12	7	2,853	2	3
56,809 *134,281	58,181	57,791 *134,281	59,439	4,385	14	4	4,361	8	0
36,273	33,441	36,273	33,441	2,701	7	10	2,481	18	2
43,555	17,981	50,075	23,911	25,299	3	9	25,816	18	1
98	623	256	748	61	15	3	161	15	1
147,861	135,184	149,776	137,468	38,518	10	3	33,357	7	9
10,652,379	9,301,521	10,895,639	10,025,131	172,707	12	1	176,648	19	7
—	—	—	—	—			3,941	7	6
—	1,350,858	—	870,508	—			—		

same bottom.

MALTA, 1898.

The above comparative statement shows an increase in the amount of duty collected on beer, meat, bullocks, sheep, mules, grain other than wheat, manufactured grain (including flour), cotton-seed oil, potatoes, seeds, spirits, and vinegar; and a decrease of duty on horses, wheat, olive oil, pulse, and wine.

Wheat and Flour.—The price of wheat having risen considerably in the course of last year, first on account of the large purchases effected in America, and subsequently on account of the bad crops in Russia, local merchants would not run the risk of importing large quantities at those prices. This brought about a falling off in the importation of wheat, which was partly met by the consumption of wheat in the Island and partly by the importation of flour, which, in view of the special circumstances above referred to, could be obtained at a price which was relatively cheaper. It thus happened that, in addition to the gradual yearly increase in the importation of flour due to the preference given by a considerable section of the community to a superior quality of bread which cannot be made out of flour produced by the mills in use in the Island, and also to the necessity of mixing imported with locally ground flour in order to whiten the bread, there has been an exceptional increase in the importation of flour during last year.

The increase in the Customs receipts was £7,647 0*s.* 3*d.*; as, however, the duty on one salm of wheat is 10*s.*, and that on flour produced from the same, as calculated for purposes of drawback in accordance with the law, is 12*s.* 7*d.*, the increase was equal to the flour which would have been produced by 12,154 salms of wheat, and is due to the ordinary and extraordinary causes above referred to.

Potatoes.—The importation of potatoes during the year was normal, the apparent increase being due to the falling off in the previous year in consequence of bad crops in the United Kingdom.

Oil.—No comparison can properly be made as regards receipts on oil between the last and the previous years, inasmuch as up to the 15th May 1897 cotton-seed oil did not pay duty, whilst it now pays double the duty levied on olive oil.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Live sheep, increase	31	5	7
Frozen and preserved beef ...	1,515	10	6
Frozen mutton	1,214	16	6
Total increase ...	£2,761	12	7

This comparatively large increase is exclusively due to the contracts entered into by the Imperial Government for the supply of the meat in question, the consumption of fresh mutton and preserved meat by the population being normal, and that of frozen meat almost nil.

Spirits, Wine, and Beer.—The high price and the indifferent quality of common wine have had the effect of greatly reducing its consumption, and of increasing that of beer, and also to a certain extent the consumption of spirits, especially whisky. Moreover, the Customs authorities, with the assistance of the provisions of Ordinance No. X of 1889, have of late years been more successful in their endeavours to prevent smuggling, thus increasing the revenue derived from spirits, although the actual consumption may not have increased to the same extent.

Vinegar.—The increase on this item is only apparent, the same being due to a quantity of wine, bonded as such, having on examination been found sour and released as vinegar.

Bullocks.—The increase of £1,222 12*s.* 6*d.* under this item is due to the removal of the prohibition of the importation of cattle from Syria coinciding with low prices of live stock in Morocco and Tripoli.

In connection with this most important article of consumption, it appears desirable, in the interest of this community, that the local rearing of bullocks and the importation of small bullocks to be fattened in the Island be encouraged in every possible way as the best means, not only of securing a moderate supply of live stock in case of need and of reducing the price of meat by enabling importers to avail themselves of the opportunity when the price is cheap and when no quarantine restrictions exist in order to increase their stock, but also of furthering the interests of agriculture which stands in great need of assistance.

Exports.

The total exports in 1898, exclusive of local produce, amounted to £9,379,140, of which £51,597 represent the value of the goods actually landed in the Island and re-exported, and £9,327,543 the value of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottom.

MALTA, 1898.

The following table shows the destination of the exports for five years from 1893 to 1897 :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1893...	1,876,402	4,193,122	8,152	6,197,465	12,275,141
1894...	2,737,744	3,978,977	6,373	6,363,653	13,086,747
1895...	2,859,870	3,317,533	6,817	7,047,593	13,231,813
1896...	2,359,890	2,899,046	3,181	6,624,032	11,886,149
1897...	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709	10,088,760
Average for five years.	2,323,748	3,255,958	6,725	6,527,290	12,113,722
1898...	2,088,589	1,408,986	13,013	5,868,552	9,379,140
Below the average...	235,159	1,846,972	—	658,738	2,734,582
Above the average...	—	—	6,288	—	—

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1898 were:—Wheat, 3,591,174 quarters, valued at £1,494,570, against £1,381,129 in 1897 ; Indian corn, 728,395 qrs., value £75,565, against £56,653 ; barley, 2,249,197 qrs., value £441,313, against £201,227 ; inferior grain, 497,395 qrs., value £46,410, against £39,565 ; pulse, 34,600 qrs., value £30,030, against £105,773 ; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued collectively at £9,047 ; manufactured grain, £7,563 ; olive oil, £9,822 ; cotton-seed oil, £863 ; potatoes, 1,921 ; spirits, £8,793; and wine, valued at £2,810, were the chief exports to British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture in Malta and Gozo remains stationary, only varying in its results from year to year through accidental and abnormal causes, such as an excessive or deficient rainfall, absence or prevalence of destructive insect pests, &c.

The methods of cultivation employed are somewhat primitive, but the land as a rule is diligently tilled and cleaned by the hardworking and painstaking husbandmen. Vegetable produce and fruits being largely imported from Sicily and other neighbouring countries, the prices obtainable by local producers are lamentably low, whilst wages are high, ranging from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* for farm labourers, and show a steady rise.

Acreage.

The surface of Malta, including Gozo and Comino, is 117·361 square miles, equal to 75,111 acres. The area estimated as under crop in 1898 was 44,165 acres, or nearly three-fifths of the whole surface. Of the remaining two-fifths only 4,024 acres were returned as uncultivated.

Holdings.

Some 10,000 holdings make up the cultivated area, the average extent of a holding being 4·4 acres, equal to one Maltese salma.

The following table, compiled from the census of 1891, shows the description, number, and extent of holdings :—

Description of Land.	Number of Holdings.	Total Acreage.	Per cent. to Cultivated Land.	Acreage Extent of Holding.
		Acres.		Acres.
Fields	7,981	37,236	84·32	4·66
Mixed fields	1,513	6,423	14·54	4·25
Fruit gardens	397	350	0·79	0·88
Market gardens ...	109	156	0·35	1·43

Condition of the Soil, Land Tenure, &c.

The soil is calcareous, deficient in "humus" and organic matter, and very shallow. Its fertility, however, as evidenced by an average yield of 22·56 bushels of wheat per acre, is not below par. This is accounted for by the mineral plant-food (phosphates and alkalies) contained in the soil, and heavy manuring.

The land is owned by Government, the Church, and private proprietors. Owners of land, as distinguished from farmers, are very few.

The system of land tenure is a "four years' rent," sometimes eight; and only waste open spaces are given on long lease to admit of being brought under cultivation.

Agricultural Exports.

Potatoes, onions, cumin seed, and oranges are the principal exports of local produce. A decline in the quantities exported is shown in the following table taken from the annual report of the President of the Chamber of Commerce for last year :—

Produce.	1897.	1896.	Total 15 years 1882–96.	Average 15 years.
Potatoes ...	C. 25,403	C. 67,791	C. 1,412,752	C. 94,183
Onions ...	„ 17,166	„ 43,087	„ 657,965	„ 43,864
Cumin seed	„ 2,823	„ 1,719	„ 36,220	„ 2,415
Oranges ...	Doz. 17,640	Doz. 6,980	Doz. 2,060,243	Doz. 137,350

Crops.

The corn crops, consisting of wheat, barley, and a mixture of both sown together (mischiato), covered an area of 13,189 acres, or 29·86 per cent. of the whole cultivated land. The average yield in bushels per acre was wheat, 22·56 ; mischiato, 25·02; and barley, 29·22.

The produce from wheat and mischiato (32,087 Imperial quarters) allow only 1·42 bushels out of the 7·21 bushels required per head and per annum for the civil population, which means a 75 days' supply only from home-raised corn.

Beans and pulse include the broad bean, which is mostly picked green, peas and the common vetch which are gathered green to supply the market, the chickpeas and chickling vetch, which furnish seed for animals, and the catterpillar, which is grown only as a forage.

The cultivation of the cotton, owing to the Egyptian and American competition, has dwindled to the quantity required for home consumption.

Under the denomination of gardens are included vegetables, root crop, and fruit.

Vegetables are grown on irrigation land all the year round, and in open fields during the rainy season. The rent of irrigation land is £3 and upwards per acre.

Potatoes and onions are largely grown for exportation. The area under potatoes is broadly estimated at 5,000 acres. Two crops, the spring and winter, are raised. The produce was, last year, fairly satisfactory, and sold at a high price of £6 per ton. Excessive rainfall, in November last, caused the nearly complete failure of the winter crop. Importation of inferior rate seed from Ireland, where the potato disease is prevalent, accounts for the decline of this crop.

Fruit trees generally are suffering from exhaustion of the soil, and many are made the host of insect pest and cryptogamic disease. The orange, lemon, and mandarin are attacked by scale insects and their fruit spoiled by the orange fly. The latter deposits its eggs likewise in the stone fruits and the prickly pear. Many means have been suggested to stamp it out, but considering the many hosts on which it thrives its eradication is somewhat difficult.

The pomegranate, fig, mulberry, carob, olive tree, and the vine are the other trees cultivated for their fruit.

Cumin is raised for exportation, and sesame for home consumption to dress bread with.

Most of the land returned as pasture is barren rock on which no crops can be raised, except the catterpillar and other pulse in the holes and crevices where some soil is collected.

The sulla (*hedysarum coronarium*) marks a distinct feature of the local agriculture. Nowhere can a better crop be seen. In 1895 the French Government of the Regency of Tunis made an enquiry as to the method of cultivating this forage in this Island. It is an essential crop in the rotation. It benefits the soil mechanically and chemically by its roots remaining in the ground and by its being a nitrogen-bearing crop. Outgoing tenants, in fact, receive compensation when leaving the land after the sulla crop.

Live Stock.

Notification of live stock is enforced by law for sanitary purposes, and the returns are very accurate.

Mules, farm cows, sheep, goats, and pigs are reared locally. The mules, farm cows, and goats especially are of a good breed. Unfortunately the once famous Maltese ass is becoming very rare, and unless means be adopted to protect it there is great apprehension that the breed may in future die out. Horses and most of the horned cattle for meat are imported.

The total number of horses, including mules and asses, was 8,862, or one horse for every 20 persons.

The horned cattle may be distinguished in farm animals and cattle kept in pens for the supply of meat. The first are fairly distributed all over the cultivated area, and their number bears a direct ratio to the acreage of casals. The cattle for the slaughter-house are more abundant in districts adjoining the fortified towns, the greatest number being returned from Hamrun, Misida, and Pietà.

The total number of sheep was 13,895. Nearly half the number was returned from Gozo, where Garbo alone furnished 1,106. The milk of sheep is not sold as such but is turned into cheese.

Goats, of which 15,165 are returned, supply the inhabitants with fresh milk. At Hamrun, Misida, and Pietà no less than 3,334 goats are kept, of which nearly 2,500, or one goat to every 10 inhabitants in Valletta, are brought into town for milking purposes.

The total number of pigs was 7,058, most of which had been reared locally.

Shipping.

The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1897 and 1898 :—

Year.	Steamers Entered.		Steamers Cleared.		Sailing Vessels Entered.		Sailing Vessels Cleared.		Totals.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1897	2,697	3,563,146	2,688	3,532,097	1,414	74,280	1,409	74,945	8,208	7,244,468
1898	2,704	3,502,177	2,708	3,521,198	1,186	61,551	1,166	60,795	7,764	7,145,721
Increase in 1898 ...	7	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decrease in 1898 ...	—	60,969	—	10,899	228	12,729	243	14,150	444	98,747

From the above it will be seen that whilst the totals show a decrease both in the number of vessels and in tonnage, the decrease in the number is wholly on sailing vessels, there being on the other hand a slight increase in the number of steamers entered and cleared in 1898.

The decrease in the sailing vessels may be accounted for partly by the gradual abolition of this class of vessels, and partly by the less frequent arrivals of the vessels laden with wine from Sicily and Candia.

The increase in the number of steamers may partly be due to the fact that shipowners are gradually becoming convinced that the facilities afforded by our harbour are at least equal to those which they found by experience to exist in other rival ports.

The following table shows the nationality of the vessels entered and cleared in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels :—								
British	1	153	1	153	—	—	—	—
Colonial (Malta)	115	11,514	116	11,878	125	11,730	110	9,714
Austrian	5	490	5	490	4	396	4	396
French	—	—	1	105	—	—	—	—

Greek	170	14,642	194	17,132	85	10,401	84	10,530
Dutch	1	45	1	45	—	—	—	—
Italian	1,027	38,644	1,003	36,716	905	33,541	899	34,693
Montenegrin	12	2,255	12	2,255	3	518	2	238
Spanish	—	—	—	—	3	276	2	184
Turkish	65	5,423	58	5,984	44	3,984	46	4,261
Tunisian	16	537	17	560	17	705	19	779
Norwegian	1	205	1	205	—	—	—	—
German	1	372	1	372	—	—	—	—
Total Sailing Vessels ...	1,414	74,280	1,410	75,895	1,186	61,551	1,166	60,795

Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers :—								
British	1,607	2,586,822	1,603	2,582,030	1,658	2,612,601	1,662	2,626,553
Colonial (Malta)	66	32,704	65	32,618	54	23,507	51	26,719
Austrian	479	307,986	478	273,863	483	321,873	484	321,634
Belgian	4	6,514	4	6,514	8	10,311	8	10,311
Danish	8	3,700	8	3,700	16	15,091	16	15,091
French	61	48,765	61	48,765	60	50,186	60	50,186
German	214	317,445	213	310,292	185	232,791	184	230,946
Greek	43	53,646	41	52,398	30	34,611	31	35,559
Dutch	25	16,795	26	19,795	21	14,818	21	14,808
Italian	123	115,914	122	129,267	114	103,803	114	103,813

Japanese	2	2,776	2	2,776	—	—	—	—
Portuguese	—	—	—	—	1	1,990	3	4,884
Norwegian	43	46,221	43	46,221	42	44,008	42	44,008
Russian	2	807	2	807	3	2,018	3	2,018
Spanish	6	7,070	6	7,070	11	15,271	11	15,370
Swedish	7	10,391	7	10,391	14	17,486	14	17,486
Turkish	6	3,732	6	3,732	3	973	3	973
Roumanian	—	—	—	—	1	839	1	839
American	1	1,858	1	1,858	—	—	—	—
Total Steamers	2,697	3,563,146	2,688	3,532,097	2,704	3,502,177	2,708	3,521,198

The following is a comparative statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1894	4,126	3,597,992	4,111	3,592,141
1895	3,959	3,512,427	3,983	3,521,780
1896	3,786	3,293,200	3,767	3,291,148
1897	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993

LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government was in session when it met for the first time in 1898, on which occasion His Honour Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Chief Justice, was sworn in as Vice-President of the Council ; on the 29th April the Council was adjourned *sine die*, and by proclamation of the 12th July it was dissolved and a general election ordained.

The new Council met on the 12th October, and continued its sittings up to the 21st December, when it was adjourned to the 4th January 1899.

New Letters Patent, dated the 16th December 1898, by which all ecclesiastical persons were rendered ineligible for a seat in the Council of Government, having been published in the Island on the 31st December 1898, the Council was on the same day dissolved.

The Council met 28 times between the above periods and passed 13 Ordinances of which the most important are Nos. I., II., IX., X., XI., and XII.

Ordinance No. I. of 1898 was passed to enable the head of the Government to make regulations respecting the grant of licences for the sale of non-intoxicants, for better securing the maintenance of order and public decorum, and for limiting the number of such licences according to circumstances. This law was rendered necessary by the fact that, with a view of enabling holders of licences for the sale of wines and spirits to evade the stringent Government regulations concerning the same, shops for the sale of non-intoxicants were opened close to licensed grog-shops from

which wines and spirits were freely passed into the former, in which women, sometimes of doubtful character, also served, whilst their presence is not permitted in grog-shops.

Ordinance No. II. establishes a tariff of commercial fees. This law originated in a petition by the Chamber of Commerce to the effect that commercial fees established by local usage should be recognized by a legislative enactment in order that merchants, brokers, &c. may not be put under the necessity of bringing before the court witnesses to prove the usage whenever their fees are disputed.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1898 amends Ordinance No. I. of 1875, intituled "To make some provisions for preventing the introduction and propagation of certain diseases in animals."

This law was passed to enable the Government to make regulations for preventing the supply of infected or contaminated milk.

The regulations, since published in the Government Gazette of the 23rd January 1899, provide for the registration of all persons carrying on the trade of cow-keepers, sheep or goat keepers, dairymen or purveyors of milk; for the inspection of cattle in dairies, cattle-pens, or other places; for securing lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage, and water supplies of dairies and cow-sheds in the occupation of persons following the trade of cow-keepers and dairymen; for securing the cleanliness of milk stores, milk shops, and vessels used for the preservation of milk for sale by such persons; and also prescribe the precautions to be taken for protecting milk against infection or contamination.

Ordinance No. X. amends the law concerning contagious diseases in conformity with modern ideas and with the English law on the subject.

The principal provisions of this enactment are to the effect (1) that the Chief Government Medical Officer may order the disinfection of any building, shed, tent, or ship in which there has been a person affected with a contagious disease as well as of any infected person or articles; (2) that the disinfection may be made either in the infected place or in any other place which the Government will establish for such purpose; (3) that infected articles, which cannot be sufficiently disinfected, may be destroyed; (4) that occupiers of houses, or any place in which, within the preceding six weeks, there has been a case of infectious disease, should be punished, if, without having disinfected the place, any such person should give it up to the landlord, or sublet it, or transfer it to others and conceal the fact that a case of infectious disease had occurred within the time above specified; (5) that persons shall be punished if they commit any of the acts contemplated in the Ordinance by which the infection might be communicated; and (6) that the head of the family to whom the

MALTA, 1898.

patient belongs, or, in default the patient's next of kin residing in the same building, or attending the patient, or the master of the ship, shall be punished if they do not report any case in which the patient appears to be probably affected with an infectious disease unless they call the doctor without reasonable delay.

Ordinance No. XI. of 1898 is intituled "To make some provisions relating to public meetings and assemblies."

The object of this law is to prevent that public meetings be held without due notice thereof being given to the Superintendent of Police, who has the power, among others vested in him by the law, to indicate, if necessary, the place in which the meeting may be held in substitution for that pointed out in the notice above referred to; to make, with the authority of the Government, regulations to be observed on the occasion of any public meeting for the maintenance of order; to dissolve the meeting in certain cases, resorting to force, if, after an injunction to disperse, the meeting or assembly should not disperse within an hour from such intimation; and to make use of force, even if no intimation can be made owing to riot or opposition.

The promoters of meetings held in contravention of the law as well as those who offend against its provisions are liable to certain punishments.

Ordinance No. XII. of 1898 is "The Education Ordinance, 1898," which repeals Ordinance No. III. of 1897.

By this enactment the power of framing amendments of, or additions to, any article of the Statute of the University and Lyceum is transferred from the Council of Government to the head of the Government, who is also vested with power to abolish the office of Director of Education and to transfer, wholly or in part, the duties appertaining to the office so abolished to the Rector of the University, to the Director of the Elementary Schools, and to other existing offices, or to the persons occupying such offices.

EDUCATION.

Malta is well provided with educational institutions in which instruction in its three stages, higher, intermediate, and elementary is imparted.

Besides a university and a lyceum, there are two secondary schools, one in Malta for females and one in Gozo for males; a technical and manual school, 38 elementary day schools for boys, 39 for girls, five infant schools, and 31 night elementary schools.

In addition to the above public schools, there are 129 private schools and colleges, attended by upwards of 4,000 scholars.

University.

Under the new Statute promulgated in 1898, the authorities of the University are the rector, a general council, and the special councils of the faculties.

The University consists of four faculties, viz., literature and science, medicine and surgery, law and theology.

The course of literature and science extends over three years, the courses of the other faculties extend over four years.

The University is empowered to confer the following degrees:—(I.) B.Lit., Bachelor of Literature; (II.) B.Sc., Bachelor of Science; (III.) D.Lit., Doctor of Literature; (IV.) D.Sc., Doctor of Science; (V.) M.D., Doctor of Medicine; (VI.) LL.D., Doctor of Laws; and (VII.) D.D., Doctor in Divinity.

A matriculation examination for admission to the university is held yearly; but the courses of the faculties commence every third year.

Lyceum.

The Lyceum is an institution in which intermediate instruction is imparted. Instruction is of two grades, the lower and the higher, each extending over three years. The lower is preparatory to the higher, which is divided into two courses, the classical and the modern.

In the classical course students are prepared to matriculate in the University; students in the modern course are prepared for the civil service, the army, the navy, a commercial career, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and architecture, and navigation.

The obligatory subjects of instruction common to both courses are English, Italian, history, geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, physics, writing, and religious doctrine. Latin is obligatory for students in the classical course, and French for those in the modern. Book-keeping, Arabic, phonography, and drawing are optional subjects. There is also a night drawing school for artizans.

The Schools of Mechanical Engineering and of Civil Engineering and Architecture, and of Navigation are attached to the Lyceum. In the School of Mechanical Engineering young men receive instruction to qualify for a certificate of competency to serve as first and second class engineers under the Merchant Shipping Act.

An entrance examination to the Lyceum is held once a year.

MALTA, 1898.

Secondary Schools.

The Female Secondary School is attended by young ladies who receive instruction in English, Italian, French, arithmetic, geography, history, writing, needlework, drawing, music, and religious doctrine.

In the Boys' Secondary School in Gozo instruction is imparted in Latin, English, Italian, history and geography, arithmetic, algebra, geography, elements of physics, writing, and religious doctrine.

The course of studies extends over four years. An entrance examination in English and Italian and arithmetic is held every two years.

Technical and Manual School.

In the Technical and Manual School modelling in clay, plaster casting, stucco work, cabinet making, and carving in wood and stone are taught. Apprentices in this school attend also the Lyceum drawing class daily during their apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The expenditure incurred in 1898 in respect to the above Educational Departments, including the Education Office, was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Education Office	924	4	5
University	3,554	1	11
Lyceum	2,587	18	1
Secondary Schools	629	14	9
Technical and Manual School...	197	15	10
Messengers' Establishment, Stationery, &c.	303	2	10
Total... ...	£8,196	17	10

Elementary Schools.

The elementary schools, formerly called primary schools, together with the Girls' Secondary School in Valletta and the Boys' Secondary School in Gozo, had formed a separate Department up to 1879, when, on the recommendation of the Royal

Commissioner, the late Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.B., they were merged into the Education Department. But it having lately been established that the elementary schools, numerous as they had grown to be, were suffering from a lack of supervision, the Government found it advisable in 1898 to recognize elementary education as a distinct Department, under a separate responsible head, leaving, however, the other schools of secondary instruction under the control of the Rector of the University.

In taking that decisive step the Government was guided by independent expert opinion, and carried into effect the strong recommendations of the Select Committee which the Legislative Council had appointed in 1897 to inquire into and report upon the re-organization of the Education Department, and on any reforms that might be introduced for the better working of that Department.

The intricate question of education in Malta was thoroughly studied in all its bearings, and it was conclusively proved that the hitherto prevailing system of elementary instruction had failed to attain the object in view, especially in the attempt made to teach, simultaneously, English and Italian to Maltese pupils at a very tender age, both those languages being widely different from, and equally foreign to, their own native tongue.

The objectionable practice of calling upon the various teachers to help in conducting the annual examinations was done away with, it having been found that the schools were suffering considerably from the baneful effects of cramming, thereby failing in the real ends of a sound education. That unsatisfactory condition has now been remedied by salutary reforms introduced in the new regulations issued with a view to place elementary education on a sounder basis. Under these regulations Maltese only is now being taught in the inferior standards, whilst in the next two, only one language, either English or Italian, at the choice of the parents or guardians of the pupils, is to be allowed. It is satisfactory to note that in the classes where it has been considered advisable to introduce this salutary reform, 95 per cent. of the pupils attending have chosen English as their primary language of education, an evident proof that this system has met the real wants of the people.

The excellent practice of extending to teachers in the elementary schools the benefit of a regular course of training in England was revived in 1898 by sending two male and two female students to English Catholic training colleges ; and it is to be hoped that this good work will, with the hearty and cordial support of the Council, be continued if possible on a larger scale, in order that the Government might be enabled to gradually fill up vacancies by accomplished teachers.

MALTA 1898

The number of elementary schools in 1898 was as follows :—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Day Schools :—			
Boys	29	9	38
Girls	31	9	40
Infant	4	2	6
Mixed infants	14	—	14
Drawing (boys)	5	—	5
Drawing (girls)	4	—	4
Wood carving and Modelling ...	3	—	3
Sunday (secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
	91	20	111
Night Schools :—			
Elementary (boys)	25	5	30
Drawing (boys)	4	—	4
	29	5	34
Grand totals	120	25	145

The schools in 1898 were attended by 10,768 children, corresponding to 82·4 per cent. of the number on the roll on the 1st September 1897, which is the date of the beginning of the scholastic year in the elementary schools, and 62·1 per cent. of the number of boys attending the night schools.

The result of the annual examinations shows that the general average percentage of passes was 86·0, as against 91·7 in 1895–96 and 95·3 in 1896–97.

The number of children who left the schools during the year was 4,265, whilst 4,652 were admitted during the same period, leaving 7,021 still seeking admission, or 121 over the number for whom no accommodation could be provided in 1897.

The new school at Musta, capable of accommodating 800 children, which was opened in August last, has been found to answer all expectations, and it is hoped that the school in course of construction at Cospicua will likewise meet the long and greatly felt want in that populous centre. But these schools will not meet all the required school accommodation in the Island, and it is

therefore to be regretted that the efforts of the Government to build new suitable schools in other important villages have not so far been successful.

The question, however, of the supply of school accommodation is a matter of great importance, and calls for all the more attention of those concerned because it is only on a prompt and satisfactory solution thereof that the Government can adequately meet the ever increasing demand for admission in the elementary schools.

The total expenditure in 1898 for elementary instruction was £13,649 17*s.* 8*d.*, or £1 5*s.* 4*d.* for each pupil attending the school.

Of the above total £11,394 4*s.* 1*d.* were personal emoluments, and £2,255 13*s.* 7*d.* other charges, including rent, minor works, and other expenses for the maintenance of the schools, but exclusive of the sums which have been laid out in connection with the building of new schools, or with any extensive and extraordinary repairs in the existing ones.

The above total shows that the Government has spent in 1898 on elementary education over one twenty-fourth part of the total revenue of the island collected in the same year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

The principal statistics relative to hospitals and asylums in 1898 are given below :—

Hospitals.

Institution.	In the Hospital on 1st January.	Admitted during the Year.	Daily Average.	Patients Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Central Hospital	159	2,497	171	2,205	280
Seamen's Hospital	9	85	7	78	9
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	68	481	73	413	64
Manoel Hospital	7	150	8	132	24
Gozo Hospital	25	431	34	345	73
Totals ...	268	3,644	293	3,173	450

Asylums.

Institution.	Inmates remaining on 31st December 1897.	Admitted during 1898.	Daily Average.	Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	688	144	626	18	136
2. Incurables	206	28	223	14	22
3. Lepers	18	12	22	4	3
Lunatic Asylum	628	142	639	73	44
Orphan Asylum	97	13	96	13	1
Ospizio-Gozo	134	36	145	2	21
Totals ...	1,771	375	1,751	124	227

The above institutions are under the administration and supervision of a Comptroller in Malta and of the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo in that Island, whose respective Departments are also in charge of a system of outdoor medical relief, afforded by twenty-two District Medical Officers in Malta and three in Gozo.

The Government, besides, distributes outdoor relief in alms to the poor who are not objects for admission into the charitable institutions, affords assistance to foundlings and other infants requiring nursing, and takes charge of the burials of paupers dying in the fortified towns, where inter-mural interments are not allowed, and of those dying from infectious diseases in all parts of Malta and Gozo, in which cases extra-mural burial is also prescribed.

The expenditure incurred in 1898 for the maintenance of the foregoing charitable institutions, and for carrying on the other services enumerated above, but exclusive of that incurred for recurrent or extraordinary works and repairs, amounted to £41,172 14*s.* 3*d.* in Malta and £3,296 1*s.* 10*d.* in Gozo. The institutions have afforded during the year maintenance and medical and surgical treatment to 5,432 persons in Malta and 626 in Gozo. 77,403 cases of ailment in Malta and 15,194 in Gozo were, besides, professionally attended to by the District Medical Officers at the patients' dwellings or at the Government dispensaries; and 4,796 vaccinations in Malta and 481 in Gozo were

performed by the same officers. 1,595 persons in Malta and 175 in Gozo received outdoor assistance in monthly rates varying between 2*s.* and 20*s.*, and as immediate relief, to such an extent as the particular circumstances of each case required; and 83 foundlings and other children were farmed out, or their parents were pecuniarily assisted in procuring wet nurses for them.

Among the new works effected in 1898 in connection with the charitable institutions, those which deserve special mention, in view of their importance, are the building of a mortuary and post-mortem examination room, and of an additional room in the sisters' quarters in the Central Hospital; the construction of an infirmary and of observation rooms in the male division of the Lunatic Asylum; two rooms for well-to-do patients in the Manoel Hospital for infectious diseases; and an Asylum for Lepers.

This latter building is still in course of construction, and some time I apprehend will have to elapse before it is brought to completion, unless funds for that object are more liberally and speedily provided. The urgent necessity of pushing on with the utmost alacrity the works in connection with this institution becomes clearly apparent when it is considered that there are 140 persons suffering from leprosy in both Islands; out of that number, only 27, *i.e.*, 17 males and 10 females, are kept voluntarily in separate wards at the poor house, though their isolation there cannot be quite absolute. The remaining number of lepers are scattered all over both Islands. An Ordinance was passed by the Council of Government in March 1893 providing for the segregation of persons suffering from that disease, but the law cannot be enforced before a suitable place is available for that class of patients.

The further enlargement of the Lunatic Asylum is another measure requiring serious and early attention. The building in its present state can hardly accommodate 400 patients, and yet the number of its inmates at the end of 1898 was 653. The inevitable consequence is that the classification of patients becomes a matter of great difficulty, and is but imperfectly carried out, and that the state of the institution, in so far as the comfort of its inmates and the observance of the rules of hygiene are concerned, leaves much to be desired.

Another want which is sorely felt in Malta is the building of a hospital in substitution to the existing one, which has become quite inadequate to the population of the Island, and which, on account of its position, does not admit of any further enlargement. The building now used for that purpose, moreover, was erected as far back as the year 1734, when principles of sanitation and the rules which are now observed in the construction of similar institutions were not rigorously observed; and, further, that building was never intended to be used as a hospital, but it

was erected to serve as an asylum for poor spinsters. It therefore lacks most of the accommodations and conveniences necessary in an institution of that nature. It has no ground for exercise and recreation for patients. Its ventilation is imperfect, and its position in a thickly inhabited centre is a serious evil, not only to the inmates of the hospital but to the population around. It is therefore highly advisable that the means may soon be found for meeting such an urgent public necessity.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors on the 31st December 1898 was 6,657, and the amount standing to their credit on the same day was £519,038 0*s.* 5¾*d.*, against £514,878 18*s.* 9¼*d.* in 1897.

The deposits made during the year under review were £99,113 14*s.* 8*d.* as compared with £113,963 16*s.* 7*d.* for the year 1897, while the withdrawals were £102,606 3*s.* 10½*d.* as compared with £105,088 9*s.* 7½*d.* for the previous year, leaving an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £3,492 9*s.* 2½*d.*

The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1898 amounted to £8,578 17*s.* 3*d.*, while the revenue collected was £13,044 14*s.* 1*d.*, thus showing a net profit of £4,465 16*s.* 10*d.* on the year's transaction.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The strength of the internal branch of the Malta Police on the 31st December 1898 consisted of the following officers and men:—

One superintendent, 1 senior assistant superintendent, 5 assistant superintendents, 15 inspectors, 22 first-class sergeants, 55 sergeants, and 338 constables.

No important change has been effected in the distribution of the force, but the country districts have been gradually strengthened by drafting men of long service into the country, the recruits and younger constables being retained in Valletta for training and tuition in English.

An augmentation of 30 men was authorized in 1897, and recruits are being gradually enrolled, but it is found impossible to secure suitable English-speaking candidates. It became, therefore, necessary to select men otherwise eligible and to form a class for tuition in English, which has been done with fair success.

The small sum appropriated to the cost of instructing the police of both branches in "first aid to the injured" and "restoration of the apparently drowned" has been disallowed; it is feared, therefore, that this most useful portion of the police education must in future be omitted. The gymnastic course, however, continues, and constables are being gradually passed through a course of training with British battalions.

The number of offences reported to the police in 1898 was 6,864, against 7,567 in 1897. The number of persons brought before the Magistrates was 10,670, being 1,270 less than in the previous year. Of these, 9,857 were convicted, 184 committed for trial in the superior courts, and 629 acquitted.

The summary convictions were for the following offences:—

Offences against the person	925
Injuries to property	357
Offences against the good order of families ...	30
Other offences	8,545
Total ...	9,857

Of the 184 persons tried in Her Majesty's Criminal Court, 60 were acquitted and 124 convicted. The convictions were: 1 for murder, 61 for other offences against the person, 2 for robbery with violence, 31 other offences against property, 6 offences against the good order of families, and 23 for miscellaneous offences.

The above shows a steady decrease in crime; indeed both islands are singularly free from crime of a serious nature. Contraventions of the police and sanitary laws, though decreasing, are still numerous. The rare appearance of men of the fleet or garrison (some 20,000 in all) in court is very satisfactory, and speaks much for the good behaviour of the men, and something also for the training, forbearance, and firmness of the police, to whom an invaluable assistance is rendered by the military police.

The suppression of organized houses of ill-fame and the expulsion of the worst class of foreigners who live on this traffic will shortly be effected under the recently enacted laws.

The police laws which, in the absence of municipal authority, provide the only sanction for repressing annoyances arising from the matters below enumerated, are deficient and inadequate,

complicated by numerous ordinances and Government notices, and should be revised and adapted to the wants of modern civilization, namely:—Mendicity; solicitation or importuning, other than for immoral purposes; town noises; the practically unlimited traffic in drink; the collection and disposal of refuse; and traffic regulations, especially regarding vehicles plying for hire and their drivers.

Prisons.

In the year 1898, 5,236 persons were confined in the three prisons in Malta and Gozo, viz., 3,517 men, 715 women, 994 boys, and 10 girls. Of these, 9 were for debt, 188 for want of security, and 5,039 for penal punishment.

1,663 were committed for the first time,

1,079 for the second, and

1,113 had been convicted three times or more.

The daily average in the prisons was 292, against 268 in 1897.

The number of punishments inflicted was 283, namely:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water... ...	126
Dark cell on bread and water	8
Reduction from class	35
Admonished...	114

The cost of the prisons (Corradino common gaol, Valletta prison, and Gozo common gaol) amounted to £4,544 14*s.* 7*d.*, of which £437, expended in the maintenance of consular, naval, and military prisoners, were recouped, leaving a net expenditure of £4,107 14*s.* 7*d.*, against £4,172 4*s.* in 1897.

The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to £870. viz.:

Value of labour performed—

	£
(*a*) *Outside* the prison (reclaiming waste land and produce of prison land)	280
(*b*) *Inside* the prison (mat and broom making, tailoring, joiners' work, &c.)	580
Sale of animals	10
Total ...	£870

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good: 7 were treated in the prison infirmary, and there were no deaths.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The civil population for 1898 is estimated at 180,328, an increase of 15,291 over the population according to the census for 1891, and of 2,583 over the population in 1897.

The birth-rate for the year is 38. The death-rate is 25·77, a considerable decrease on the preceding year, due to less mortality among infants.

Public Health.

The general state of the public health has been good, if we except an outbreak of small-pox at the beginning of the year, which was not entirely stamped out until the month of May. The deaths from zymotic diseases were 207, or 4·4 per cent. to total deaths.

The fortified towns are supplied with water under pressure and have a good system of drainage. They hold a population of 60,423 over an area of about 1½ square miles, with a death-rate of 22·54. By far the greater part of the remaining population is clustered in the suburban zone surrounding the fortified towns. This zone, though partly supplied with water under pressure, is undrained, and comprises a population of 44,266 over an area of about 14 square miles, and has a death-rate of 31·17. The population spread on the remaining portion of Malta and at Gozo, occupying the rural area, amounts to 75,639. The rural area is partly supplied with water, is undrained, has an extent of more than 75 square miles, and a death-rate of 25·83.

Sanitation.

The Public Health Department, by means of a staff of inspectors, sees to the abatement of nuisances, and carries out generally the administration of sanitary laws. The sanitary law is deficient in some respects, and it is to be hoped that draft legislation which has long been expecting passage through the Council of Government will eventually become law. During the year under review a useful measure for the regulation of dairies and the handling of milk has been passed into law, the principal provisions of which have been dealt with under "Legislation" in this report.

The total rainfall for the year was 29·178, and the average for the last 15 years 19·7 inches.

The following is the Meteorological Return for the year:—

(Lat. 35° 55′ N. Long. 14° 29′ E. Barometer reading reduced to 32° F. at sea level.)

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds	
	Solar, maximum.	Minimum on grass.	Shade, maximum.	Shade, minimum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity	General Direction.	Average Force.
	°	°	°	°	°	°	Inches.			
January	126·5	35·2	64·0	42·2	9·3	55·5	2·883	80	E.S.E.	0·63845.
February ...	129·9	32·7	66·6	42·2	10·6	53·5	2·193	77	W.N.W.	1·03680
March	145·4	38·9	74·4	45·4	13·0	56·4	1·348	82	W.N.W.	0·43245
April	149·6	42·5	77 6	48·3	12·5	60·0	1·953	85	W.N.W.	0·80645
May	144·7	45·4	83·1	52·8	15·3	64·5	0·045	71	E.S.E.	0·60500
June	153·6	48·6	96·3	56·5	17·8	73·4	—	68	E.S.E.	0·36980
July	153·5	57·1	95·7	64·4	16·0	75·1	—	69	E.S.E. & W.N.W.	0·42320
August	151·5	61·0	92·3	67·0	12·6	77·5	—	75	S.S.E. & W.N.W.	0·26645
September ...	147·8	61·5	86·3	65·1	13·0	73·7	2·500	77	E.S.E.	0·00180
October	143·6	55·0	84·9	55·9	10·9	69·6	7·783	75	W.S.W. & W.N.W.	0·42320
November ...	137·7	51·0	76·2	54·5	10·9	64·9	2·329	82	E.S.E.	0·35280
December ...	120·8	—	66·4	41·4	9·8	55·9	8·144	79	W.N.W.	0·63845

POST OFFICE.

The transactions of the Post Office Department, when compared with those of the previous year, show an increase in the amount of correspondence exchanged.

The decrease in the revenue (as explained under head "Revenue," in this report) and the increase in the expenditure set forth in the following statement are merely to be attributed to the fact that in 1897 the sums received by the Malta Post Office on account of transit rates represented the amounts due for two years, and that the payments made to France under the same head, during the period under review, were in settlement of a term of three years.

The actual deficit in 1898 is, in consequence of the above payments, £1,349 10*s.* 2*d.*; but it is satisfactory to note that the sale of stamps during that year shows an increase of £430 0*s.* 3½*d.* over that of 1897.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
1897.	1898.	Decrease.	1897.	1898.	Increase.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
16,218 18 4	15,781 12 0	437 6 4	13,883 15 0	16,931 2 2	3,047 7 2

Particulars of the mail matter dealt with during the year are furnished in the following statement :—

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase in 1898.
	1897.	1898.	
Letters	4,019,206	4,198,786	179,580
Cards	126,325	153,350	27,025
Printed Matter... ...	1,973,128	2,402,322	429,194
Parcels Post	50,028	51,187	1,159
Total	6,168,687	6,805,645	636,958

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Besides six companies of Royal Artillery and six battalions of Infantry, there are in Malta three local corps, viz. :—

The Royal Malta Artillery, consisting of seven companies, two of which are liable to serve in any part of the British Empire.

Two battalions of the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia, each composed of eight companies of 120 men ; and

A company of the Malta Militia Division Sub-Marine Miners Royal Engineers.

The first battalion of the Militia was raised on the 1st May 1889, and the second battalion on the 1st April 1897.

The amounts expended by the Imperial Government for the up-keep of the above local corps during the year ending 31st March 1899 are as under :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
(*a*) The Royal Malta Artillery	22,761	3	1
Pensions for the same	5,502	10	4
(*b*) The Royal Malta Regiment of Militia ...	12,307	15	9
(*c*) The Malta Militia Division Sub-Marine Miners Royal Engineers ...	1,488	8	2
Total ...	£42,059	17	4

The Royal Malta Artillery receives the same pay as regular Infantry Regiments, and the Militia, which is organised under the British Volunteer System, receive pay for 72 drills, the rates for officers and men being equal to those of Infantry Regiments in the United Kingdom.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Railway.

The Malta Railway, as administered by the Government on co-operative principles and worked by Government officials, has continued to increase in popularity and importance ; and, apart

from its financial results, which are decidedly satisfactory, it has contributed largely to promote social and economic interests in the Island.

It is a fact that since its opening in 1892 new and healthy dwellings have been erected and are continually being built in the central villages within easy reach of the line and at Notabile; a great number of families have established their residence out of the towns; cab fares have been reduced to half their former rates; thousands of workmen, living in distant villages, who on working days used formerly to sleep in town agglomerated in small and unhealthy rooms, are now daily conveyed to their destinations; and townsfolk find nowadays an easy and cheap resort to the open country on Sundays and other festival days.

Besides the improvements mentioned in former reports, the following have also been effected in the railway. At the Valletta Station a platform has been built and a new ramp arranged as an entrance and outlet for passengers; a new station was cut in the rock at Floriana; many of the sleepers were replaced by new oak ones, the line fastened with fangbolts, and all the stations furnished with additional accommodation.

Two stone sheds were built at the Hamrun Yard for the shelter of engines and carriages, and a technical school established in connection with the workshop for the training of apprentices.

An extension of the line from Notabile to Imtarfa is in a fair way of completion. Starting from Notabile Station, which is 160 feet below the inhabited centre, the extension runs for two-thirds of its length in a tunnel under Notabile and ends on the southern side of the Imtarfa Barracks after crossing the underlying valley on a stone bridge flanked by two embankments.

The tunnel is driven in clay and lined with limestone almost the whole length. In some parts of the tunnel, where the clay has no coherence, the circular shape has been adopted. This new extension will offer many advantages deriving from the fact that the position of the new station is far more suitable than the old one, both on account of its higher level and of its being nearer to the inhabited centres, whilst the terminus will be quite close to the Imtarfa Barracks. The cost of this extension will not be far short of £20,000. Interest on the sums expended in these works is being paid out of the railway revenue at the rate of $2\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. on £5,000 and of 3 per cent. on £15,000.

The net profit of the railway in 1898, after deducting interest on the capital invested, was £1,457 16*s.* 7*d.*, or £1,107 16*s.* 2*d.* if the amounts expended in the Imtarfa extension be taken into

consideration, as shown in column No. 3 of the following table, in which further details are given of the year's operation as compared with that of 1893, the year of starting.

—	No. 1. 1893.	No. 2. 1898.	No. 3. 1898.
1. Capital spent in the re-equipment of the line.	£ 14,653	s. 8	d. 8	£ 19,410	s. 3	d. 5	£ 32,110	s. 1	d. 11
2. Gross revenue	4,859	9	1	7,108	3	3½	—		
3. Working expenses ...	3,862	18	1	5,147	12	7	—		
4. Profit on working ...	996	11	0	1,960	10	8½	—		
5. Per cent. profit to capital invested.	6·80 per cent.			10·10 per cent.			6·10 per cent.		
6. Net profit after deducting interest on capital invested.	£ 593	s. 11	d. 9	£ 1,457	s. 16	d. 7	£ 1,107	s. 16	d. 2
7. Gross earning per train mile.	s. 1	d. 8·106		s. 1	d. 8·106		—		
8. Working expenses per train mile.	1	3·983		1	2·920		—		
9. Net profit per train mile.	0	4·123		0	5·686		—		
10. Train mileage.	58·004			82·792			—		
11. Coal consumed per mile run.	25·29 lbs.			24·80 lbs.			—		
12. Number of passengers	626,912			1,063,013			—		

Change in the Constitution of the Council of Government.

The close of the year witnessed a change in the constitution of the Council of Government by Her Majesty's Letters Patent of the 16th December, which makes the Council henceforth to consist, besides the Governor as President, a Vice-President, and six official members, of thirteen, instead of fourteen, elected members, ten of whom to be elected as heretofore by the general electors, and three, instead of four, by the special electors, all ecclesiastical persons having been rendered by the Letters Patent ineligible for a seat in the Council of Government and consequently in the Executive Council.

Changes in Offices.

Governor Sir Arthur Lyon Fremantle's administration came to a close on the 5th January last. He left the Island, on leave, on the 1st of that month, and his successor, Sir Francis Wallace Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., assumed the Government on the 6th. In the interval the Government was administered by the Honourable Major-General Lord Congleton, C.B., as Deputy Governor, who had also been appointed Deputy Governor during His Excellency's temporary absence from the Island from 20th July to the 28th August 1898.

Sir Joseph Carbone, Chief Justice, was on the 17th January 1898 appointed Vice-President of the Council of Government, which post had remained vacant since the retirement of his predecessor in office, Sir Adrian Dingli, from the service on the 31st December 1894.

Professor Enrico Magro, M.D., was on the 3rd January 1898 appointed to act provisionally as Inspector of Primary Schools which were subsequently separated from the Education Department and made to constitute a separate Department.

During my absence on leave from the 12th June to the 28th September, the Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., acted as Chief Secretary to Government, the duties of his office as Collector of Customs having been performed by the Deputy Collector.

Financial Position of the Island.

With regard to the present position of these Islands, I must premise that, there being, as regards finances, no statistical or other publications issued by any authority or institution, except those of the Government Treasury, the information given below, which has been collected from various sources, must be considered as representing only an approximate estimate based on conjectural data.

It may be useful to class the information into various heads as follows :—

(*a.*) Value of the landed property ;

(*b.*) Investment of money in securities (other than Government) ;

(*c.*) Money in deposit ;

(*d.*) Money in circulation ; and

(*e.*) Value of gold, silver, and precious stones.

(*a.*) *Value of landed property.*—The total real value of the landed property in these Islands has been estimated at £4,455,000, and the annual income obtained from the letting of the same would amount to £133,650.

(*b.*) *Investment of money in British and foreign stocks (exclusive of Government).*—The amount of money invested by local private capitalists in British and foreign securities is generally considered to be very large. It is held in fact that the aggregate amount of such investments can be safely estimated at £2,000,000.

(*c.*) *Money placed in deposit.*—The Government Savings Bank is the principal bank wherein money is deposited by petty traders and generally by all persons of thrift in these Islands. On the 31st December last the number of depositors was 6,657 and the amount standing to their credit was £519,038. Of this sum £103,556 are placed in the bank for safe custody and without earning any interest. The Government hold, besides, on deposit a sum of £21,937 belonging to 64 persons, which was left in the hands of the Government at 2 per cent. interest since the time of the conversion of the Sicilian dollars when demonetized by the Italian Government. There are also two local banks (Anglo-Maltese and Anglo-Egyptian) wherein moneys, as fixed deposits, are accepted at a rate of interest varying according to the period during which they are so deposited. Of these deposits no positive information is available, but I learn that they may be approximately estimated at say £20,000 between the two banks.

The amounts of money placed in deposit in this Island may, therefore, be recapitulated as follows :—

	£
In Government Savings Bank ...	519,038
In Dollar Conversion Fund ...	21,937
In the Anglo-Maltese and Anglo-Egyptian Banks	20,000
Total ...	£560,975

(*d.*) *Money in circulation.*—It is not possible to have reliable data on the amount of specie in circulation. In a place like this Island, which is a station for a large garrison and fleet, the money in circulation fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported especially for the requirements of Her Majesty's fleet. It may, however, be safely estimated that the specie in circulation amounts to about £500,000, besides the notes of the local banks which may be set down at, say, £20,000.

From the above, it may be held that the total amount of money capital at present belonging to the Islands would be—

	£
Money invested	2,000,000
„ in deposit	560,975
„ in circulation (including notes) ...	520,000
Total ...	£3,080,975

(*e.*) *Value of gold, silver, and precious stones.*—The value of the jewellery existing in these Islands is also to be taken into account. It is well known that it is the general custom of many families of all grades in this community to invest their savings in the purchase of jewellery, and this may be proved by the large number of gold and silver pawns existing always in the Monte di Pietà, by the yearly local manufacture of gold and silver wares, the value of which in 1898 amounted to upwards of £27,000, and the constant recurrent large importation of foreign jewellery. Taking the number of families, as given in the census of 1891, to be 37,467, and assuming that, say, one-half of these families possess jewellery to, say, an amount of £50 for each family, there would result a total value of jewellery in possession of the population represented by £936,650. To this may be added the value of stock of jewellery existing in shops, which is estimated at £100,000; but as only 50 per cent. of that stock is presumed to be the actual property of the jewellers, the amount to be added to the total value of the jewellery owned by the people of these Islands would be £50,000, giving a grand total of £986,650, which, spread on the population, gives a proportionate rate of £5·56 per head, and added to the £3·16 calculated as rate of money placed in deposit, gives a total of £8·72 of money and valuables owned by each head of the population, exclusive of immovable property.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,

Chief Secretary to Government.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

No. 250.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1897.

(For Reports for 1896, *see* Nos. 215 and 223.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1898.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046–18.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 250.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

(For Reports for 1896, *see* Nos. 215 and 223.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Mauritius,

26th August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1897, together with copies of the usual summary.

2. I also transmit the Report on the Blue Book, to which the Rodrigues Report is appended.

3. In transmitting the Blue Book and the accompanying Summary and Report, it is my duty to add that, since the close of the financial year ending 31st December 1897, the causes which led to a serious reduction of the revenue for the year, dealt with in the Blue Book, have told with disastrous consequences on the revenue of the current year. These causes may be briefly stated as a short crop of sugar, low prices, and the abnormally high price of Indian foodstuffs. The first and last of these causes may be considered as temporary; there is every promise that the crop of the season 1898–99 will be abundant, and there is an appreciable reduction in the price of foodstuffs; but the low price of sugar has been the result of causes which threaten the sugar industry of Mauritius with the loss of its hitherto profitable markets—India and Australia. The Indian market has been largely affected by the operation of the artificial bounty system of foreign governments in aid of beetroot sugar. In 1887 the total quantity of beetroot sugar imported into India amounted to only 630 tons, valued at Rs. 150,000, as compared with an

700*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1897.

importation of 85,000 tons, valued at Rs. 20,650,000. During the first nine months of 1897, no less than 52,000 tons of beetroot sugar, valued at Rs. 11,637,000, were imported into India, against 74,000 tons of cane sugar, valued at Rs. 17,000,000. As regards the Australian market, it is enough to record the fact that, whereas Australia 15 or 20 years ago took one-half of the produce of Mauritius, the extension of sugar cultivation in the Australian Colonies threatens permanently to close to this Colony that hitherto lucrative market.

4. I have endeavoured in numerous despatches to lay before you the present financial position of the Colony. If I have felt bound to draw attention to the subject in this despatch, it is because the publication of the Blue Book and the accompanying Report might naturally lead to an inference that they correctly define the position of the Colony at this date. Such an inference would be altogether misleading.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TAXATION.

1. Very little alteration was made in the items of existing taxation.

The bicycle, which, as I reported in the Blue Book Report on Barbados for 1896, had asserted itself in the West Indies, has now increased to taxable proportions in this Eastern Colony, and a license varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 was imposed on dealers in bicycles.

A few other items of not sufficient importance to necessitate special remark appear in the amendments and alterations of items of such taxes.

REVENUE.

	Rs.
2. The estimated revenue for 1897 was	8,238,517
The actual receipts were	7,996,706
Showing a deficit of	241,811

	Rs.
The revenue for 1896 had been estimated at ...	8,427,338
And the actual receipts for that year were ...	8,849,181
Showing a surplus of	421,843

Allowing, therefore, for certain items, such as Licenses, Fees of Court, and Miscellaneous (to which a windfall of Rs. 368,074 had accrued in 1896), and for an increase under the other heads which showed a steady upward tendency, the estimates for 1897 were quite justifiable.

3. Unfortunately a disastrous drought, the low prices for sugar, the high prices for rice and grains in India, and the tightness of the money markets there, formed an overwhelming combination of untoward circumstances which upset all calculations, and went very nigh to produce a general financial disaster. With a solitary exception (a casual rise in the receipts for Crown land shooting leases) every head of revenue showed a considerable falling off.

4. The Customs, which had been estimated at Rs. 2,948,000 on a sugar crop of 140,000 tons, produced Rs. 2,769,889, against Rs. 3,069,745 in 1896; shipping, of course, followed suit; the receipts under both heads showing together a falling off of Rs. 313,543; excise fell from Rs. 1,279,215 to Rs. 1,245,869; railway receipts showed a decrease of Rs. 71,688; educational fees Rs. 4,495.

The net total decrease in the revenue for 1897 compared with 1896 was Rs. 852,476.

5. In 1896, however, the Colony got the benefit of what is very rightly called in the Blue Book Report a "windfall" of Rs. 368,074 (the figure given in that Report is Rs. 351,024, but the rate of exchange was only then estimated — the exact sum is Rs. 368,074), caused by the surplus balance of the Sinking Fund provided for the redemption of the 6 per cent. debentures of 1864 having been brought to credit of the revenue of that year.

If that sum be eliminated, the comparison between the revenue of 1896 and 1897 will be Rs. 8,481,107 against Rs. 7,996,706, or a decrease for 1897 of Rs. 484,401.

6. The remaining available balances to the credit of the Colony were required to meet the immediate necessities for current expenditure, and for making good the deficiency. It was possible to meet all obligations, but only by great care, and by abandoning—for the time only, it is to be hoped—much that might otherwise have been done for the welfare of the population.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

EXPENDITURE.

7. The total expenditure for 1897 was Rs. 8,626,798, against an estimate of Rs. 8,738,137 and an actual expenditure of Rs. 8,544,736 in 1896.

	Rs.
Of this personal emoluments were ...	3,015,220
Other charges	5,611,578
	8,626,798
The revenue for 1897 was	7,996,706
Showing an excess of expenditure	Rs. 630,092

8. Although the falling off in revenue was due to the exceptional temporary disadvantage of short crop, low prices, no markets, and high cost of Indian foodstuffs, there is every reason to fear that the present establishment and expenditure of the Colony are beyond its resources, and that considerable reductions must be made if income and expenditure are at least to balance each other.

9. It is of interest to analyse briefly the current expenditure of the Colony, and for this purpose it has been divided under the following heads, showing the principal items of which they are made up :—

	Rs.
1. Annual Charges :—	
Public Debt, Pensions, Military Contribution, Telegraph Subsidy	1,960,664
2. The Executive Administration only :—	
Legislation, Executive, Police, Prison, Public Works (recurrent)	1,416,791
3. Revenue Making Departments proper :—	
Inland Revenue, Customs, Shipping, Registration, Railway, Post Office, Water Works	2,227,637
4. Departments partially recouped by Fees, &c. :—	
Judicial, Education, Medical, Forests, Poor Law, Immigration, Crown Land ...	2,266,373
5. Ecclesiastical	141,321
6. *Annual Grants :—	
Sciences, Agriculture, Homes, Races, Local Boards, Fire Brigade, &c.	113,724
Carried forward	Rs. 8,126,510

* This item is susceptible of considerable reduction.

	Brought forward	Rs. 8,126,510
7. Miscellaneous :—		
Interest on Deposits, Crown Agents, Exchange on Remittances, Loan Office, Dependencies		339,858
8. Special Expenditure :—		
Queen's Jubilee, Medical Mission to India, Depreciation of Currency Commissioners' Securities, Public Works (Extraordinary), New Edition of Laws, &c.		160,430
	Total	Rs. 8,626,798

10. The revenue (say Rs. 8,000,000) was absorbed (and in fact exceeded) by those heads of expenditure in the following proportion :—

	Approximate percentage.
1. Annual Charges	25
2. Executive Expenditure ...	18
3. Revenue Departments... ...	28
4. Departments partially recouped	28
5. Religion	2
6. Annual Grants...	1
7. Miscellaneous	2
8. Special Expenditure	4

	Rs.
11. The provision for the Education, Religion, Health, and Relief in sickness and old age of the Community was	1,559,453
and of the maintenance of Law and Order, and punishment of crime	1,313,432
Total ...	Rs. 2,872,885

The first represented Rs. 4·12 per head of the population, and the second Rs. 3·47.

The whole is about covered by the Customs receipts.

It is interesting to remark that in Barbados, an Island so far resembling this that it entirely depends on one and the same staple industry, sugar, and has a large agricultural labouring population (though very differently composed), the expenditure under these two heads bears about the same proportion to one another, and is defrayed by the Customs revenue.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

MUNICIPALITIES, &c.

	Rs.
12. The total revenue of the Corporation of Port Louis in 1897 was	457,180
exclusive of a credit balance in hand on 1st January...	9,510
Total	Rs. 466,690
The total expenditure was	513,816
Leaving a deficit of ...	Rs. 47,126

13. The Debenture Debt at the end of the year stood as follows :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
Conversion Loan	133,400	132,300
Colonial Loan, 1889	106,470	93,600
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892 ...	140,093	130,491
Colonial Loan, 1894	14,905	7,125
Government Overflow Loan, 1896	—	45,833
Total ... Rs.	261,468	277,049

14. The Accounts of the District Boards of Commissioners show :—

	Rs.
Total Revenue	91,542
Expenditure	89,508
Debt to Government	20,000

PUBLIC DEBT.

15. The Public Debt of the Colony stood as follows on 31st December 1897 :—

	£	£
Unconverted Debentures 4 to 4½ per cent....	176,100	
Bonds paid	57,700	
		118,400
Converted Inscribed Stock 4 per cent. ...		480,750
Hurricane Loan Imperial Guarantee 3 per cent..		600,000
Treasury Bills redeemable		38,339
		£1,237,489

CURRENCY NOTES.

16. The amount of Treasury rupee currency notes in circulation on the 31st December was Rs. 3,114,250

	Rs.	Rs.
The specie in hand of Commissioners of Currency	1,570,000	
Investments	1,722,405	
		3,292,405
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...		Rs. 178,155

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

17. The total military expenditure of the Colony was Rs. 418,272.

The Colonial contribution was calculated on five and a half per cent. on the gross receipts of revenue generally (exclusive of land sales), and on the net receipts of certain specified items, in addition to which about Rs. 20,000 is at present paid in lieu of Customs Rebate.

The total strength of the garrison on 1st January 1898 was 1,078 (of all ranks), against 939 on 1st January 1897. In that year the expenditure was £63,906.

The increasing importance of Mauritius as a fortified coaling station on the direct route from the Cape of Good Hope to the East is likely to lead to an augmentation of the benefits it derives from the presence of Imperial troops.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

LEGISLATION.

18. Out of 42 Ordinances passed during the year, only one requires notice in this report, No. 38, "To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Quarantine."

19. "Quarantine at Mauritius" had, it is no exaggeration, a wide-world reputation. The provisions of the existing law on the subject was by no means in consonance with the modern scientific views of the incubation period of germ diseases, and of the greater efficacy of medical inspection and isolation of actual, or observation of suspected cases, and of disinfection, than of prolonged detention in quarantine.

The rigid enforcement of the Quarantine Laws against vessels coming to Mauritius and its dependencies had become, to use the honest phrase, intolerable. Government troopships, ocean liners, mail and trading steamers, were liable, and often subjected, to delays and the passengers to detention, in some cases for long periods on the ground of maladies, some of them not usually the subject of quarantine, existing at the ports or places from which they had sailed or at which they had called on the voyage here.

Grave complaints were received from the Government of India and from private companies, and it is more than probable that the abandonment of this route by one of the largest ocean services running between Europe and Australia via the Red Sea was due to the delays and difficulties experienced by their steamers when calling here.

In one case at least the Government had to pay heavy compensation for the detention of a steamer in quarantine beyond the maximum limit allowed by law.

20. It needs no argument to show how in these days of keen marine and mercantile competition the adherence, however well meant, to obsolete principles must result in a deadlock with shipping and trade interests, and re-act on the progress of the Colony. It was therefore decided to submit to the Legislature a measure which, while safeguarding the Colony as much as possible against the introduction of dangerous diseases, would, by adopting the principles of the International Sanitary Conferences of Dresden and Venice, substitute reduced periods of quarantine, coupled with medical inspection and active precautionary measures, for the prolonged detention and delays which were so much complained of.

21. The Ordinance was very fully considered and debated at several meetings of the Council of Government before it was finally passed.

It provides for :—

(1) Inspection by the Health Officer of all vessels arriving here.

(2) Prompt admission to pratique of healthy vessels.

(3) Temporary detention in quarantine of observation of suspected vessels.

(4) Quarantine for specified periods for the following diseases :—

Disease.	Period.	Old Period.
	Days.	Days.
1. Plague	15	15 to 21
2. Cholera	10	21
3. Small-pox	15	16 to 21
4. Yellow fever	10	15 to 21
5. Typhus	10	15 to 21

calculated from the date of sailing of the vessel from the port of departure or termination of last case on board or in quarantine.

(5) Prohibition and exclusion of certain articles from importation in the Colony.

22. The detail working of the law is effected by regulations to be made by the Quarantine Committee, and approved by the Governor in Executive Council.

Steps will be taken by the Government to establish a properly equipped disinfecting station in addition to the present one and other means at their disposal.

The above measure will afford much better facilities for dealing with the subject generally, and minimising the conflict with other interests, which is so liable to have an injurious effect on the prospect of the Colony.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

23. The number of electors registered was ... 6,230
The number who voted at the last General Election (quinquennial) 4,566

In two districts, however, there being only one candidate nominated, there was no polling.

In 1896 there were 6,468 electors registered, and 4,566 voters at the elections.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

COUNCILS.

24. No remarks.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

25. The principal changes in the Public Service of the Colony were :—

Governor—His Excellency Sir C. Bruce, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Windward Islands, succeeded Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., appointed Governor of Trinidad.

Supreme Court—Mr. J. Rouillard, 1st. Puisne Judge, died on the 21st October.

Colonial Secretary—Mr. G. R. Le Hunte, late Colonial Secretary of Barbados, succeeded Mr. C. A. King-Harman, C.M.G., appointed Administrator of St. Lucia.

Receiver-General—Mr. J. J. Brown, Collector of Customs, replaced Mr. L. E. Schmidt, retired.

Director of Forests and Gardens—Mr. W. Scott died on the 3rd October, and was succeeded by Mr. J. Vankeirsbilck (acting), the Assistant Director.

Collector of Customs—Mr. G. Lumgair, Storekeeper-General, succeeded Mr. J. J. Brown, appointed Receiver-General, and was succeeded as Storekeeper-General by Mr. L. S. R. du Vergé.

PENSIONS.

26. The pension list amounted to Rs. 364,655.68, against Rs. 362,773.29 for 1896.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

27. The total population is given at 377,856
(over 536 to the square mile, about half the proportion of Barbados or Malta).
In 1896 it was 374,942

Increase ... 2,914

This increase is almost entirely a natural increment from excess of births over deaths. The increment from immigration excess of arrivals over departures is only 323.

28. The total Indian population was 260,540; the total Chinese 3,389; being an increase of 1,538 over 1896.

The Indian population may be classified under three heads :—

1. Resident (Indo-Mauritians)	...	184,775
2. Immigrants	...	69,115
3. Other Indians	...	6,650
Total	...	260,540

representing about $\frac{7}{10}$ths of the total population of the Colony.

The general proportion of males to females in the total population is, approximately, 1,200 males to 1,000 females.

Births.

29. There were 13,657 births in 1897, or 2,139 more than in 1896 (but that year the birth-rate was abnormally low).

The birth-rate for the total population is 36·4 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 36·5 per 1,000.

The birth-rate varies in different districts, from the minimum 27·5 in Black River to the maximum 41·3 in Moka.

The birth-rate of Port Louis is below that of Madras, Cairo, and Alexandria, and above that of Bombay.

The proportion of illegitimate births was nearly 65 per cent. of the whole (lower, however, than for 1896 = 67·7).

30. There is a great difference in the percentage of illegitimate births acknowledged by the father. In the general population 21 per cent. were not acknowledged, in the Indian section only 3 per cent., showing that amongst the latter there exists a *bona fide* recognition of the responsibilities of paternity and solicitude for the care of their offspring.

Deaths.

31. There were 11,066 deaths in 1897 = 29.5 per thousand, against 15,843 deaths in 1896 = 42 per thousand, which, however, was an abnormally high rate.

The death-rate was lower and the birth-rate higher amongst the Indo-Mauritians, and they are increasing much more rapidly than any other group of the population.

The death-rate varies very much according to locality, from 40·4 per 1,000 in Port Louis (town) to 22·0 in Riviere du Rempart on the North-Eastern part of the Colony.

A very great improvement is noticeable in every district.

More than 50 per cent. of the deaths are due to zymotic diseases.

12 deaths were registered amongst the troops (1,014), 5 of enteric fever, 1 to remittent fever, and 6 to other non-climatic causes.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

32. The report of the Medical Inspector of Immigrants, Dr. Lorans, with reference to the sanitary condition of the estates was generally satisfactory. Referring to the diminished death-rate amongst the labourers for 1897 against 1896, Dr. Lorans says :—

"This diminution is easily accounted for by the difference in the climatic condition of these two years. It is a common saying in the Island that a good sugar crop is accompanied by a heavy fever rate. The correctness of the statement was well exemplified in 1896, and though the converse may not be always true, the contrast was well marked in 1897. The drought, which in the latter year did so much harm to the sugar industry, especially in the northern districts of the Colony, was accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the fever prevalence in those districts."

The death-rate varied greatly on estates in different localities, the highest being 40·7, and the lowest 5·4 in Pamplemousses, 5·5 in Grand Port.

33. Speaking of the great increase, however, of the death-rate on certain estates in 1897 as compared with 1896, in one case 75 per 1,000 against 37 in the previous year, in another 59 against 27, in a third 36 against 9, Dr. Lorans makes a very interesting remark :—

"These four estates comprised in the valley of Cent Gaulettes have suffered from no special unsanitary condition which can account for the unhealthiness which prevailed there last year. The villages of the region have suffered similarly, and it seems probable that fluctuations in the level of the subsoil water brought on conditions favourable to the multiplication of the hematozoon of Laveran and of the germs causing dysentery. It should be remarked that the increased mortality on these estates was principally due to these two complaints, while diarrhœa was a frequent complication of the fatal fever cases."

It is satisfactory to observe that Dr. Lorans states that careful analytical examination completely exonerates the Mare-aux-Vacoas from any suspicion in the production of typhoid fever or dysentery.

34. Dr. Lorans draws very serious attention to the absence of any legislation for the compulsory notification of infectious diseases, and gives a grave warning that "unless steps be promptly taken to cause all cases of contagious diseases to be brought to the notice of the sanitary authorities, and powers granted them to ensure proper isolation and disinfection, when dealing with infectious disorders, it is to be feared that typhoid fever will, at no distant date, prove a terrible enemy to combat. Circumstances more favourable to the spread of this disease can hardly be imagined than those which obtain in Mauritius."

The subject is receiving the attention of the Government, and an Ordinance on the subject is in course of preparation for the Legislature.

Dr. Lorans also draws attention to the necessity for a Lying-in Institution, where some intelligent and suitable matrons could be trained in midwifery.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

35. There is a Government Widows and Orphans' Fund, to which all members of the Civil Service contribute 4 per cent. per annum of their salaries (Ordinance No. 2 of 1886).

The number of associates of the fund on the 31st December 1897 was 1,447, and the balance in the hands of the Government on that date was Rs. 435,617.

The fund receives from Government 6 per cent. on the mean monthly balance to the credit of the fund during the year.

The only other society assisted by Government grant is the Mutual Aid Society of Government Workmen for assisting members and their families in cases of sickness or death.

The number of members is 44, with 42 relatives and 105 children. The balance on 31st December was Rs. 1,505.

36. There is an excellent society among the Civil Servants, "The Mauritius Civil Service Mutual Aid Association," established under Ordinance 22 of 1894. Its object is to afford pecuniary assistance to Civil Servants going on leave to recruit their health, furnishing or repairing their houses, and in times of sickness or death in their families, when a sudden call on insufficient resources would entail great hardship or distress, and in many cases lead to the officers resorting to money lenders or other undesirable means of raising money to meet it.

The Act under which this society is formed allows an officer to voluntarily delegate a portion of his salary to the fund, which is deducted by the Receiver-General from his monthly salary. All other delegations of salary are expressly forbidden by the rules of the Service in this Colony.

The total number of members on 31st December was 1,037, and the balance in hand was Rs. 66,450.

There are seven other friendly societies, comprising altogether 3,108 members, with total funds Rs. 4,862.

EDUCATION.

1. *Royal College (Boys).*

(Affiliated to the University of London.)

37. The average number of scholars at the Royal College proper was 207, and at the two branch schools in Port Louis and Curepipe it was 69 and 154 respectively. Total average 361.

The expenditure altogether amounted to Rs. 148,600, and the receipts from fees and sale of books to Rs. 35,730.

The net expenditure represented Rs. 313, or rather over £20 per pupil, a large amount when compared with some other Colonies.

Two scholars are sent to the Universities in England every year, with a grant of £200 per annum for four years and passage to and from. This is not included in the above.

There are 23 private schools under managers associated with the Royal College. They receive a grant collectively of Rs. 7,000.

There is no college or public high school for girls in this Colony. The Government gives a grant of Rs. 7,000 for the higher education of girls. They are educated privately, and they enter for local examination ; they also share in the prizes given by the Royal College.

2. *Government Schools.*

38. There are 49 first grade and 32 second grade Government Schools, 16 for boys alone and 15 for girls, or girls-infants, the remaining 50 being mixed.

The average attendance in the first grade school was 4,838 out of 7,719 on the roll, and in the second grade 1,293 out of 2,212.

Total average attendance 6,131 out of 9,931.

The total expenditure was Rs. 195,154.

3. *Aided Schools.*

39. The total vote for grants to Aided Schools is Rs. 100,000, which was distributed as follows :—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grants Earned.
				Rs.
Roman Catholic ...	64	6,882	4,459	73,454
Church of England ...	32	2,090	1,332	22,530
Presbyterian	2	222	173	2,105
Mahomedan	1	162	109	1,612
Totals ...	99	9,356	6,073	99,701
Not included in the vote of Rs. 100,000 :—				
(*a*) Grant for training of teachers				2,934
(*b*) Grant for drawing				300
Total ... Rs.				102,935

Receipts for sale of books ... ... Rs. 5,673

The re-establishment of a training institution is a much needed requirement. This Colony would do well to follow the example of the Leeward Islands in this respect, where the employment of certificated teachers, trained in the Mico Institution, has had such excellent results in the progress of education in these Islands.

The total cost of elementary education comes to nearly Rs. 25, or about £1 12*s.* per pupil, an excessive amount when measured by the results.

Industrial Education.

40. Five apprentices are annually selected by the School Committee for the Government Railway Works for five years' training, and two for the Botanical Station for four years. They are paid daily wages by Government.

The expenditure under this head for 1897 was Rs. 3,949.

It would be more satisfactory if these apprentices made more use of these opportunities afterwards. Very few of them appear to follow up the profession of mechanical engineering which the private apprentices do in many cases with great success, obtaining posts as engineers in the Mercantile Marine, &c.

Summary.

41. The net total educational expenditure was as follows :—

	Rs.
Higher Education	193,197
Elementary Education	298,089
Industrial Education	3,949
Total ...	Rs.495,235

Imports and Exports.

1. *Imports.*

42. The total value of the imports for the year 1897 amounted to Rs. 27,056,008 (inclusive of charges and exchange), against Rs. 32,194,410 in 1896 and Rs. 30,506,571 in 1895.

43. In the Report on the Blue Book for 1896 and 1895, the figures on which the averages have been struck and comparisons made have, no doubt for some good reason, been taken "*Exclusive of Exchange*," that is at the value of the article at the port of shipment in rupees calculated at Rs. 10 to the £1 sterling. This will give a total value of imports of Rs. 18,948,234 in 1897, against Rs. 22,501,462 in 1896 and Rs. 20,787,652 in 1895 ; the averages for the five years being in round numbers Rs. 20,000,000.

This method of calculation is, however, possibly misleading to any one not acquainted with the real value of the factor "Exchange" in financial transactions between countries with a gold and rupee silver currency.

For instance, the total value of the imports from the United Kingdom for 1896 is given at Rs. 3,855,229 as the equivalent of £385,523, whereas as a matter of fact that sum in sterling was represented by Rs. 7,412,771, a very serious difference when it comes to paying for them.

Again, with the Indian trade, where the currency is the same in both countries, the item "Exchange" very materially alters the figures.

The imports from India in 1896 are given at Rs. 13,749,974, which with exchange come to Rs. 16,109,221.

In fact it may be summed up as follows, that in 1897 it took Rs. 27,000,000 in Mauritius to pay for the Rs. 19,000,000 debited to the Colony as its accounts for imports.

In order to preserve the comparison of the returns, however, the figures in this Report are given *Exclusive of Exchange.*

44. The fluctuations in specie movements to and from India, which are included in the return of imports-exports, require some explanation. They depend almost entirely on the facility of remitting money through the banks to India. If at any time the position of the banks, with regard to their available funds outside the Colony (from causes such as the withdrawal of capital invested in the Colony), do not admit of their issuing bank drafts to the public for remittances abroad, except at rates which make it cheaper to export specie in payment of Indian accounts, instead of a transaction on paper which would not figure in the trade returns, a quantity of specie is sent away which figures in the exports. Should money continue to be "hard" this movement of specie will continue until funds outside are available for the banks and draft remittances can be resumed. Meanwhile the circulating medium in the Colony is reduced below its requirements for agriculture and retail trade purposes, and the banks have to obtain fresh supplies of specie for the planters and local traders, which will figure as an "import."

45. As this ebb and flow of coin is purely accidental at any particular time, it should be taken into account separately when dealing with the actual trade statistics over any given period. The movement will also be intensified when the markets for sugar are abnormally bad, for although there may be a large quantity of export produce manufactured and ready for shipment, it may be difficult to obtain bills against it on account of the uncertainty of finding a sale for it in India, and in such cases it will be to the advantage of the Indian traders to remit specie. When money is hard at the banks, and markets bad in India, the greater will

be the amount remitted in specie in payment of the rice bills. Specie shipments in fact actually show whether the Colony is paying its way with its produce or not.

46. In 1897 the balance of trade was against the Colony, owing to the low prices of sugar, high prices for rice and grain. In addition to this, owing to the exchange being nearly 1*s.* 4*d.* the rupee, a considerable amount of European capital was withdrawn from the Island.

47. The following comparative return shows the imports from the several countries :—

——	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. United Kingdom ...	3,855,229	3,750,780
2. British Possessions :—		
India	13,749,974	10,405,578
Australia	578,324	334,385
Singapore	177,635	175,417
Seychelles	190,295	149,946
Miscellaneous ...	241,409	319,636
Total ...	14,937,637	11,384,962
3. Foreign Countries :—		
France	2,154,651	1,727,261
Pondicherry... ...	193,477	241,560
Madagascar and Reunion	331,315	314,168
United States ...	318,191	426,379
China	243,446	435,902
Germany	108,810	89,114
Miscellaneous ...	358,706	578,108
Total ...	3,708,596	3,812,492
Grand total ... Rs.	22,501,462	18,948,234

48. It will be seen from the above that while the slight alterations in the trade with the United Kingdom and foreign countries almost balance each other, the decrease of three and a half millions of rupees falls on that with British Possessions, and it is found to occur entirely in the Indian trade.

The short crop in Mauritius consequent on the drought, and the low prices in India under the influence of plague, tight money, and bounty fed sugars, are sufficient causes for this without the additional rise in the price of rice and grains caused by the Indian famine and short supplies.

49. An analysis of the Indian trade shows a serious shrinkage in all items of ordinary consumption and use.

	Rs.
Foodstuffs decreased by ... ... (There were 950 tons less rice imported, the staple article of food.)	1,621,000
Soft goods	285,000
Hardware	68,000
Wood and woodenware	20,500
Narcotics	19,000
Chemical manure	139,500

If we eliminate specie (Rs. 1,275,728 less than in 1896), the returns show a falling off in all articles of general consumption and use, from India alone, of over two millions and a quarter of rupees.

50. Turning to the general imports the returns show that the imports per head of the population were Rs. 85.86 in 1896 and Rs. 71.60 in 1897. Apart from the articles above mentioned in the Indian trade, a considerable falling off occurred in those principally imported from other countries, amongst which are noticeable :—

	Rs.
Guano	101,000
Jewellery	21,000
Olive oil	19,700
Boots	19,000
Beer	15,000
Kerosine oil	13,500

51. The classification summary gives the following result :—

—	Values Exclusive of Charges and Exchange.		Increase + Decrease —.
	1896.	1897.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, food, drinks, and narcotics.	12,824,595	11,253,567	—1,571,028
2. Raw materials :—			
I. Textile	8,127	12,540	+ 4,413
II. Metal...	2,070	—	— 2,070
III. Others	422,404	907,829	+ 485,425
3. Manufactured articles :—			
I. Textile	2,230,178	2,027,132	— 203,046
II. Metal...	805,100	754,299	— 50,801
III. Others	3,671,962	2,730,832	— 941 130
	19,964,436	17,686,199	—2,278,237
4. Coin bullion and specie ...	2,537,026	1 262,035	—1,274,991
Total ... Rs.	22,501,462	18,948,234	—3,553,228

Exports.

52. The total value of the exports for 1897 (Rs. 81.12 per head of the population, against Rs. 90.55 in 1896) was Rs. 30,654,007, against Rs. 33,949,614 in 1896, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,295,607. But of this Rs. 2,522,109 was specie exported in excess of the amount in 1896.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

Eliminating specie for both years the real decreases in the exports of produce and manufacture of the Island was Rs. 5,637,729.

Decrease.		Increase	
	Rs.		Rs.
Sugar	5,955,248	Molasses... ...	174,445
Rum	190,210	Vanilla	15,986
Aloe fibre	10.819	Hides	26,729
Coconut oil	8 314	Soap	36 112
		Miscellaneous ...	273,590
	6,164,591		526,862
	526,862		
Net decrease ...	5,637,729		

53. The decrease in the export of sugar was due (1) to the short crop consequent on the drought, (2) to the bad state of the Indian markets ; a large amount of sugar remained in the warehouses at the end of the year and specie was remitted instead.

54. The preferential duty imposed in Madagascar in favour of French rum (from Bourbon) had the following effect on the exports of rum and molasses from here to that country :—

Export to Madagascar—

——	1896.	1897.
Rum	259,117 gallons.	52,448 gallons.
Molasses ...	18,318 cwt.	1 cwt. 16 lbs.

India, however, took 235,461 cwt. of molasses in 1897, against 54,537 in 1896.

55. The total quantities of sugar, rum, and molasses—about 98 per cent. of the total exports—were—

——	1896	1897.
Sugar ...	153,575 tons.	138,079 tons.
Rum	506,560 gallons.	142,288 gallons.
Molasses ...	152,733 cwt.	243,505 cwt.

56. The following comparison shows the produce export to the several markets of the world :—

——	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. United Kingdom ...	270,740	382,538
2 British Possessions :—		
India and Ceylon ...	16,443,173	12,429,346
South Africa... ...	4,965,493 (Natal—Nil)	4,854,913 (Natal—343,503)
Australasia	4,085,345 (New Zealand–671,210)	2,623,985 (New Zealand—Nil)
Hong Kong	341,885	224,900
Miscellaneous ...	160,659	158,051
Total ...	25,996,555	20,291,195
3. Foreign Countries :—		
United States ...	1,784,419	1,795,179
France	252,689	200,620
Madagascar	332,967	176,778
Delagoa Bay... ...	275,648	372,967
Zanzibar	Nil	15,864
Miscellaneous ...	148,123	188,271
Total ...	2,793,846	2,749,679
Grand total ... Rs.	29,061,141	23,423,412

57. Apart from the Indian trade, which has been separately dealt with, it will be seen that there was an increase in trade with the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Zanzibar, while there was a decrease in Australia, France, and Madagascar.

The Colony is losing in the Australian and Madagascar markets, and gaining in Natal, Delagoa Bay, and Zanzibar.

The sugar crop for 1898 promises to be a very large one, which will no doubt materially alter the figure for that year compared with 1897. Unfortunately the prospect of prices is not so promising.

MAURITIUS, 1897

SHIPPING.

58. The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1896 and 1897 :—

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels :—				
British	113	59,329	121	64,766
French	18	4,795	19	5,322
German	29	7,836	28	7,412
Norwegian	11	4,855	12	5,442
Danish	7	3,584	7	3,584
Various	5	2,972	4	2,441
1897—				
Total Sailing Vessels ...	183	83,371	191	88,967
Steamers :—				
British	80	155,680	82	160,059
French	59	78,606	59	78,606
German	8	7,994	8	7,994
Norwegian	2	3,057	2	3,057
1897—				
Total Steamers ...	149	245,337	151	249,716
Total Sailing Vessels ...	183	83,371	191	88,967
Total—1897 ...	332	328,708	342	338,683
Total—1896 ...	391	394,371	387	388,456
Decrease in 1897 ...	59	65,663	45	49,773

The falling off is due to the short sugar crop. The shipping figures for 1897 are, however, in excess of the average of the previous five years.

AGRICULTURE.

59. The return of agriculture shows that out of a total area of 473,760 acres, 83,392 were under cultivation, 4,425 being cultivated in the Métairie system, *i.e.*, let to tenants on shares of the crop.

69,000 acres are returned as under sugar cane ; 100 in tea ; 50 in vanilla ; 10 in coffee ; 269 in maize.

A considerable extent of land, 3,221 acres, is returned as under aloes for fibre, but the production of this article is now very small.

The remainder of the land included in estate lands, 72,799 acres, is under "catch crops," pasturage, or wood.

60. There were 147 cane mills (all steam), 58 of which are fitted with the "Triple Effect ;" 31 fibre machines ; 40 manure manufactories ; 30 distilleries (of which 12 were working). No new machinery of any kind was erected.

A great discouragement to the distillers here was suffered by the imposition of an import duty of 80 francs per hectolitre against all rum other than the export of French Colonies, in Madagascar this year, thus closing that market to Mauritius in favour of Réunion (Bourbon).

61. The average rates of wages were—

——	Per day.	Per task or job (one day's work).
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Agricultural ...	0.50 to 0.75	0 60
2. Domestic ...	0 75	
3. Tradesman ...	1.00 to 1.50	1 50

62. The following table shows the average prices of ordinary articles of consumption in the Colony :—

Article.	Price.	Article.	Price
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Flour... ... per lb.	0 0 1½	Butter (fresh) per lb.	0 2 5
Bread ... „	0 0 1½	„ (salt) „	0 1 0½
Milk ... ... per quart.	0 0 2	Cheese ... „	0 0 10½

MAURITIUS, 1897.

Article.	Price.	Article.	Price.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Beef ... ... per lb.	0 0 3½	Sugar... ... per lb.	0 0 1⅛
Mutton ... „	0 0 8½	Salt ... ... per 3 lbs.	0 0 0½
Pork ... ... „	0 0 7¼	Beer ... ... per doz.	0 9 6
Rice per bag of 165 lbs.	0 16 8	Wine, per cask (49½ galls.)	6 17 10
Tea ... ... per lb.	0 1 1	Tobacco ... per lb.	0 2 0
Coffee ... „	0 0 7¼		

63. The following extracts from the report of the President of the Chamber of Agriculture are of great interest :—

"1897 opened badly for the Sugar Industry. A drought had already afflicted the Northern and Central Districts for the last two months of 1896, after a few showers in January, gained in severity, and was persistent through the year up to 5th December, when it broke with a cyclone of exceptional character as regards the early date of its appearance and the violence of the wind during its short duration. Considerable damage to buildings was occasioned by this storm, and some to canes ; but the crop was for the most part reaped, and the canes for the next year were not sufficiently forward to suffer very severely. The damage by the wind was nothing in comparison with the benefit brought by the rains for the coming crop. Unhappily the drought had been more or less severe over the whole of the Island ; least felt in the South, but in the Northern and Eastern quarters it was disastrous, many estates experiencing the loss of 50 per cent. up to 75 per cent. of an average yield. The total production of the Colony is estimated at about 115,000 against over 150,000 tons in 1896. Prices have shown very little improvement, owing partly to the immense production of beetroot sugar and the fact that a rise in the value of the rupee in India has permitted large importations of European granulated beetroot sugar into that market ; and to aggravate the planters' difficulties the prices of all provisions, especially rice, has been 50 per cent. higher than before.

"Parcelling out land amongst Indians proceeds on a large scale ; in the majority of cases no money passes for the first year or two, except the value of the canes if there be any ripe enough to cut in the first year. It is impossible to predict what will be the effect of this great settlement of labouring Indians upon the land; it will undoubtedly lead to a great increase in the production of sugar canes, raise the value of the land, and must ultimately lead to the establishment of central factories and the division of labour.

"The cultivation of tea has been extended, and produce of excellent quality has been put on the market in limited supplies. While the quality is sufficiently good to enable it to compete on the English market, the scale on which it has been produced has not been sufficiently large to show whether the cost of manufacture will permit of exporting it profitably."

CROWN LAND RETURN.

64. Practically no Crown lands were sold during the year.

The total area of the Crown lands of Mauritius at the present date is 79,285 acres, of which 5,895 acres are leased for periods of ten and twenty years. The total number of leases was 791.

The amount of Crown land rent for 1897 was Rs. 26,684 out of Rs. 41,657 due for the year.

The total amount of arrears of rent on 31st December 1897 was Rs. 19,161, of which Rs. 1,135 is struck off as irrecoverable.

PRISONS.

65. The total number of admissions were—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1896	6,118	385	6,503
1897	7,374	380	7,754
	Increase. 1,256	Decrease. 5	Net increase. 1,251

The above increase is found amongst the offences classified as under :—

Offences.	Total Number of Admissions.
Wounding	64
Larceny	636
Minor offences	374
Road cases	87
Vagrancy	374
Labour Law	125
	1,660

MAURITIUS, 1897.

66. The Superintendent of Prisons in his report says : "I attribute the large increase in convictions to the extreme mildness of prison discipline, and to poverty and want of employment among the working classes."

Offences against prison discipline, except for very trifling matters, are dealt with by the Prison Board.

There were 18 escapes (17 recaptured), against 22 in 1896.

The average number of prisoners was as follows :—

Port Louis Prison (Town)	367
Central Prison (Beau Bassin)... ...	733
Total	1,100

The sick and death rate this year was unusually high.

—	Average in Hospital.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000
Port Louis (Town) ...	81·05	12	33
Central Prison		44	60
Total	81·05	56	46

67. The alarming high sick and death rate at the Central Prison led to the appointment of a Special Committee to enquire into its causes. They found that the majority of cases occurred amongst the short-sentenced prisoners who are taken from the poorest and physically weakest classes of the population. The causes of sickness and death were principally from malarial fever and its complications, phthisical complaints, and dysentery. The situation and sanitary arrangements of the large New Central Prison at Beau Bassin, and the prison diet, are to all appearances excellent, and the Committee did not attribute the effect to local causes ; but it is to be feared that at certain seasons of the year the whole locality is not as healthy as it used to be, and the cases of fever amongst the prison officers who reside in the vicinity of the prison was very large. At the same time no large increase of sickness was found amongst the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum or the Barkly Poor Law Asylum, which are close to.

But it is a significant fact that the prison at Port Louis (Town), which an Inspector of Prisons in England would probably at once condemn, is coming to be looked on by the prison officers and prisoners as the " Sanatorium " for the Central Prison, which is built on the latest principles.

Certain suggestions and recommendations of the Committee on the Central Prison are being carried out, which it is hoped may effect some improvement.

68. The cost of the prison for 1897 was Rs. 161,702, against Rs. 165,546 in 1896.

The total value of the prisoners' work was calculated at Rs. 133,846, against Rs. 115,402 in 1896, but the Superintendent remarks that the value of manufactured goods supplied and work performed for Government purposes shows a large decrease of Rs. 10,195.

REFORMATORY.

69. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory was 412 : 310 for purpose of penal imprisonment, and 102 for non-payment of fine and costs.

The Superintendent remarks : " It is to be noted that 306 of these boys were committed on sentences varying from two days to three months only."

It is quite evident from the use to which this institution has come to be put that its title is a misnomer. No system of temporary detention of juveniles for non-payment of fine and costs, or for such sentences as those mentioned, can for a moment be associated with the idea of a reformatory, and it is useless to treat it as one until a complete change is made in the conception of its purposes.

70. The expenditure was Rs. 20,760. The earnings of the institution were calculated at Rs. 4,600, less by Rs. 325 than in 1896 ; and the Superintendent again remarks : " This is to be attributed to less indents (Government) for ' carpentering ' and ' tinsmith's work ' having been drawn on the institution this year."

The punishment returns show a marked improvement in discipline.

The health of the boys was good ; no death occurred.

The number of boys on 31st December 1897 on the penal side of the institution was 64, and in the industrial school 18.

71. A committee has been appointed to report on the Reformatory, and this report will be presented during the year 1898. No doubt some beneficial changes will follow upon it.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

72. The following table is compiled from Police Statistics for five years 1893–1897 :—

Year.	Total Number of Cases Reported to Police.	Number of Cases Enquired into but not Prosecuted.	Number of Persons Prosecuted.	Number of Persons Charged;				Amount of Property Recovered.
				Serious Offences.	Minor Offences.	Labour Law.	Vagrancy.	
								£
1893	21,457	8,788	15,072	3,664	8,532	1,041	1,739	28,238
1894	24,024	10,352	16,150	3,560	10,117	1,025	1,412	24,326
1895	24,592	10,706	16,461	3,179	10,904	977	1,341	25,212
1896	26,915	10,858	19,123	3,277	13,851	905	979	23,005
1897	26,963	10,341	19,710	3,858	12,986	920	1,835	26,753

It will be seen that there was an increase under nearly every head of offence. The prolonged drought and the scarcity of employment were probable factors in this, especially under the heading of vagrancy, which in this Colony is practically synonymous with " out of work."

Of the 1,835 persons arrested for vagrancy 877 were committed to prison, 21 to the Reformatory, and the rest otherwise dealt with.

HOSPITALS.

Civil Hospital.

73. Number of persons treated ... 5,121
Number of deaths 320
Number of patients discharged ... 4,690
Nationality of cases admitted :—
Creoles 3,020
Indians 1,950
Europeans 135

The Medical Superintendent remarks on the frequency of tubercular affection of the lungs, which he attibutes to poverty, disregard of sanitary rules, alcoholism, and influenza "which very easily opens the door to the specific microbe."

Barkly Asylum Hospital (Poor Law).

74. Number of patients treated 2,454, 470 less than in 1896.

Death-rate 54 per thousand, against 73 in 1896.

There were 21 public dispensaries open in 1897, and the number of patients who obtained gratuitous medical assistance and medicine from them was 59,751.

75. *Lunatic Asylum.*

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of inmates on 1st January 1897.	232	134	366
Admissions during the year	56	34	90
Total number	288	168	456
Discharges	52	34	86
Died	6	6	12
Number of inmates on 31st December 1897.	230	128	358
Daily average 361.			
Average number employed daily	100	52	152

Of the 358 patients on the 31st December 1897 :—

Males.	Females.	—
139	52	= 191 were from the Indian population.
91	76	= 167 were from the general population.
230	128	= 358.

The average number of lunatics in the asylum for the ten years 1888–1897 was 391, the number varying from a maximum of 440 in 1892, the year of the last great cyclone, to a minimum of 358 in 1897.

The population in 1888 was 369,302, lunatic 1·01 per thousand.

„ „ 1897 „ 377,856, „ 1·06 „

The total expenditure of the lunatic asylum was in 1897 Rs. 81,645, giving an average cost per patient of R. 0·619 per diem.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

1. *Religious Institutions.*

76. The religious societies, with a certain amount of assistance from Government, provide for the instruction and care of a large number of the young and others.

The Roman Catholic Church has 90 institutions, convents, schools, orphanages, &c., providing for	8,275	persons
The Church of England, an orphanage and 41 schools	2,487	„
The Church of Scotland, two schools ...	222	„
Total religious institutions	10,984	„

2. *Government Relief.*

77. Medical.—Persons treated in hospital ...	...	13,872
„ „ in private infirmaries		574
„ „ at dispensaries	...	61,505
„ „ in lunatic asylum	...	429
„ „ in leper asylum	...	215
		76,595
Out-door relief.—Alimentary and pecuniary	...	1,857
Total ...	...	78,452

METEOROLOGICAL.

78. The Report of the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory (on a plain 179 feet above sea-level, 3 miles from the sea, long. 12° 6′ E., lat. 20° 5′ S.) shows that the mean rainfall for the Colony was 27·26 inches, being 21·37 inches below the average for the last 23 years, and the lowest on record, being 2·48 inches less than in 1886, hitherto the year of least rainfall.

The mean temperature was 74° as against an average of 73·5° for the last 23 years.

The maximum temperature in the sun (on 9th February) was 155·2° F.; in a room in the shade (on 18th January) 88° F.; in a screen on lawn (on 30th November) 92·6° F.

The minimum temperature in a room in the shade (21st May) 57·4° F.; in a screen on lawn (21st May) 53·1° F.

The mean dew-point 64·6°, maximum (14th January) 76·6°, minimum (21st May) 48·9°.

The mean barometrical pressure (sea-level) was 30·066 ins., maximum (7th September) 30·400 ins., minimum (5th December) 28·922 ins.

Storm warnings were issued on January 26, February 17, 18, 19, 22, 27, and 28, December 5, 6, and 19–25.

The tracks of five tropical cyclones in the South Indian Ocean were determined; one of these passed over Mauritius on the evening of the 5th December, but fortunately without doing much serious damage.

MAURITIUS, 1897.

RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

Railways.

79. The receipts for the railways (105 miles), exclusive of Government traffic (Rs. 57,357), were—

	Rs.	Rs.
Passenger traffic	969,511	
Sugar „	390,889	
Goods „	351,922	
		1,712,322
The total expenditure was		1,166,440
Balance in favour of receipts ...		Rs. 545,882

Roads.

80. The cost of maintenance of roads (370 miles), bridges, and ferries was Rs. 192,170.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

Post Office.

81. The Report of the Colonial Postmaster shows the following work of the Department in 1896 and 1897 :—

—	Letters.	Post-cards.	Newspapers.
Mail packets ...	293,998	1,701	430,536
Private ships ...	79,996	406	34,129
Inland post... ...	860,329	23,689	940,638 *
Total	1,234,323	25,796	1,405,303
„ 1896 ...	1,226,357	25,608	1,301,558
Increase 1897 ...	7,966	188	103,745

* It may be noted that local newspapers pay no postage fee. There was an increase in the circulation of 100,000 in 1897.

Postal Parcels.

Year.	United Kingdom.	France and other Countries
1896	1,856	5,986
1897	2,093	6,898
Increase in 1897 ...	237	912

The sale of postage stamps, &c., realized Rs. 72,586, against Rs. 69,555 in 1896.

82. *Money Orders.*

Country.	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	3,539	2,000
South Africa ...	208	5,745
Australia	221	102
Total... £	3,968	7,847
	Rs.	Rs.
India and Ceylon ...	98,243	6,845
Dependencies ...	4,101	30,239
Total ... Rs.	102,344	37,084

Inland, Rs. 157,651.

Telegraph Department.

83. The gross revenue of the Telegraph Department was Rs. 97,153 in 1897, against Rs. 96,915 in 1896, showing an increase of Rs. 238.

The total cost of the Postal and Telegraph Department, including payment for conveyance of mails, &c., was as follows :—

		Rs.	Rs.
1896—Establishments	...	87,516	
Other charges	...	136,856	
			224,372
1897—Establishments	...	86,136	
Other charges	...	98,967	
			185,103
Decrease in 1897 ...	...		Rs. 39,269

GENERAL.

84. There is very little to be added to what has been said already in dealing with financial and agricultural matters in this Report.

The sudden and unforeseen crisis into which the Colony was thrown threatened at one time to produce most serious and immediate disaster. The means by which that was averted will form a very interesting page in the financial history of the Colony, and will no doubt be dealt with in the Report for 1898, to which year it belongs ; but it will take long before the effects of 1897 are neutralized, and although the Government is taking every possible opportunity of reducing expenditure—which can only be economically effected, as far as establishments are concerned, gradually, as vacancies occur—and of revising and improving the collection of revenue, it will be a difficult, if not impossible, task to make its finances balance without recourse to some new source of income.

85. Fortunately towards the end of the year the drought ended, and the prospects of a large crop in 1898 are excellent. But the prices obtainable for sugar are now so low that the future is very uncertain. The planters are aware that there is only one way to face the struggle, by improving their sugar machinery so as to obtain the best result at the least cost of production.

86. Too much importance cannot be given to the subject of anitation, and especially of providing a good water supply to the Island. This excellent work has been begun in part, and should be continued at all costs.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

July 31st, 1898.

REPORT ON RODRIGUES FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TAXATION.

No change has been made in the taxation of this Dependency during 1897.

REVENUE.

	Rs.
The revenue of the year (exclusive of Customs and sums received in Mauritius), amounted to ...	8,007
and the revenue of 1896 to	8,310
showing a decrease of	Rs. 303

EXPENDITURE.

	Rs.
The payments made in 1897 (not including sums paid in Mauritius) and matters of account, amounted to	23,502
and the expenditure of 1896 (not including sums paid in Mauritius) and matters of account, to	24,469
showing a decrease of	Rs. 967

The ratio of the revenue to the population of 1897 was Rs. 2.88 and a fraction per head. The ratio of the expenditure was Rs. 8.47 and a fraction per head.

LEGISLATION.

The only law enacted for this Dependency during 1897 was Ordinance No. 16 of 1897, imposing a tax on land cultivated in tobacco at Rodrigues, and abolishing the import duty on it when imported into Mauritius.

JUDICIAL.

—	1896	1897
Criminal Side.		
Number of informations filed, including applications for search warrants	65	84
Number of adjudications	37	65
„ cases abandoned	11	3
„ persons convicted	46	76
„ „ acquitted	15	8
„ cases pending	2	—
Civil Side.		
Number of cases entered	99	101
Stipendiary Side.		
Number of cases	9	4
„ engagements	8	5
„ discharges	4	9

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions was 173 in 1896 and 194 in 1897. The amount of fines paid was Rs. 221.54.

The Court revenue was Rs. 531.35, and the expenditure Rs. 248.

POPULATION.

The population on the 31st December 1897 was composed of 2,772 inhabitants, consisting of natives of this Island, of Mauritius, Madagascar, India, China, Europe, Seychelles, and Reunion, who are traders, agriculturists, and fishermen.

The number of births was	165
„ „ deaths	39
„ „ arrivals	85
„ „ departures	74

The birth-rate shows an increase of one birth in 1897, if compared with the previous year, and the death-rate a similar increase.

Eight marriages were celebrated in 1897, against twenty in 1896.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues: one at Port Mathurin and the other at St. Gabriel. The expenditure under this heading was Rs. 1,999.92 in 1897.

EDUCATION.

In 1897 there were two schools in operation at Rodrigues, the cost of which is paid by Government. Total cost, Rs. 2,596.

EXPORTS.

The exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to Rs. 103,181.25 in 1896 and to Rs. 127,687.75 in 1897. The ratio per head was Rs. 39.15 in 1896 and Rs. 46.02 in 1897.

IMPORTS.

The imports amounted to Rs. 96,263 in 1897, against Rs. 154,886 and 50 cents in 1896. The ratio of import per head was Rs. 34.72 in 1897, against Rs. 58.78 in 1896.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships which arrived at and left Rodrigues was 8 in 1897, against 11 in 1896.

The service between Rodrigues and Mauritius was performed by sailing vessels under contract with the Government of Mauritius, which pays a subsidy of Rs. 7,500 for five trips in the year between April and December.

H.M.S. "Eclipse" and "Melpomene" visited the Island in July and August.

CROWN LANDS AND FORESTS.

Land Rent.

The total revenue actually received under the heading of land rent (fishing posts, town lots, and islands and other leases included) amounted to Rs. 2,198.25, against Rs. 2,135.50 in 1896, showing an increase of Rs. 62.75.

Pasturage.

In 1897 the pasturage fees received during the year amounted to Rs. 502.50.

Forest Produce.

The revenue derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 267.01, against Rs. 260.14 in 1896.

Land Sales.

The amount received during the year under this heading was Rs. 231.37.

GAOL.

42 persons were committed to gaol in 1897, against 38 in 1896.

MEDICAL.

The number of patients maintained in the public hospital of Mount Lubin was 69 in 1897, against 93 in 1896.

In 1896 medical care was given to 2,484 persons at both dispensaries (Port Mathurin and Mount Lubin), and 2,497 in 1897.

In 1896 nine deaths occurred at the hospital of Mount Lubin, and eight in 1897.

The prevailing diseases were asthma, fever, anæmia, dysentery, debility, cramps, ulcers, disease of the heart, apoplexy, diarrhœa, tuberculosis, and rheumatic fever.

In 1896, 175 children were vaccinated, and 80 in 1897. No hospital fee is exacted as the persons treated are destitute.

The total expenditure for the medical branch was Rs. 3,734.63 in 1897, against Rs. 3,701.74 in 1896.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Thermometer.

	Degrees.
Maximum, 6th February	88·04
Minimum, 22nd August	68·00

Barometer.

	Inches.
Maximum, 7th September ...	30·500
Minimum, 27th January	29·734

No hurricane visited the Island this year.

POLICE AND FOREST RANGERS.

The expenses for those two branches amounted to Rs. 5,207.04 in 1896 and 5,019.00 in 1897.

POOR LAW.

24 persons received relief in 1897.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Outstanding on 31st December 1897 Rs. 1,486.50.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Governor of Mauritius, Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., and His Lordship the Bishop of Port Louis visited Rodrigues in 1897. His Excellency arrived on H.M.S. "Melpomene" on the 15th August and landed on the 16th at Port Mathurin.

RODRIGUES, 1897.

The British ship "Traveller," from Java, put in for assistance on the 4th February and was thrown ashore during the next night, and became a total wreck.

The crops of beans and other plantations have been good in 1897. They were nearly double the amount exported in 1896.

The inhabitants have, at the latter end of the year, begun planting out lands with tobacco. This is the result of the suppression by Ordinance 16 of 1897 of the Custom dues which were imposed in Mauritius on the tobacco imported from Rodrigues.

It is anticipated that the revenue from the tax on lands planted with tobacco will be from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,

Colonial Secretary.

August 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 256.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-7.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

January, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1899.

[C.—9046–24] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 256.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNOR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ending 30th June, 1897, for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TRADE.

The imports for the year under consideration amounted to $5,938,334, and the exports to $4,925,789, the balance of trade being thus against the Colony to the amount of $1,012,545. A deficiency of 300,000 quintals in the catch, and the diminution in price, of codfish, reduced the value of exports by considerably over $1,000,000. The prices ruling in the local market at the time of taking over the catch from the fishermen, though about the same as the previous year, were not borne out in the foreign markets, and, at the time of shipment abroad, values had decreased very considerably, resulting in large loss to our exporting firms. The imports were slightly less than in the previous year, as the following table will show :—

——	1895–6.	1896–7.
	$	$
From United Kingdom	1,875,754	1,960,999
„ British Colonies...	2,517,659	1,765,562
„ Foreign Countries	1,593,448	2,211,773
Total	5,986,861	5,938,334

1440*—75—1/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1896-7.

By these figures it appears as if the trade with British Colonies had decreased, and that the trade with Foreign Countries had increased by the same sum. This is merely fictitious, and is the result of the imperfect system of tabulating imports in 1895–6, which has been corrected, to some extent, at least, in 1896–7. A large quantity of the productions of the United States come to us in bond, through Canadian ports, and these had, in the past, been included with the actual imports from the Dominion of Canada. Now, however, the Customs distinguish between the actual products of Canada and those merely passing through in bond, crediting the latter to the country of origin.

The total exports were :—

——	1895-6.	1896-7.
	$	$
To United Kingdom	1,727,852	1,349,273
„ British Colonies	1,334,340	951,072
„ Foreign Countries...	3,575,995	2,625,444
Total	6,638,187	4,925,789

FISHERIES.

Codfish.

Our principal fishery resulted in an average voyage, being 300,000 qtls. less than the previous year. The shippers to foreign markets were severely handicapped by the poor returns realized, prices having fallen considerably. The competition of the Norwegians and of the French to obtain possession of our fish markets is severe, the latter being in a specially favourable position, by reason of the large Government bounties, to undersell all rivals. Much effort has been put forth by our mercantile firms to perfect the cure of our staple, but there remains yet a great deal to be desired in this direction. Newfoundland cod, well-cured, is second to none, but, so long as fish is purchased " talqual " the incentive to proper cure and careful handling will be to a large extent absent, the lower grade fish being equally remunerative to the fisherman as the prime merchantable. The system is a pernicious one, and its continuance is fraught with danger to the Colonial trade. Lack of capital prevents experiments to any large extent with new markets. The Government, in the summer just past (1898), authorized Commissioners to visit the Mediterranean ports in the interests of the fish trade. But very little can be done by a short visit. Several permanent mercantile agents are needed, who must keep moving through the various sections of territory ; the needs of each market must be

studied as to quantity, cure, and packages required, and due attention to these matters must be given by shippers. The length of time required to work up such a trade, the uncertainty of the venture, and the need for ready money, are obstacles in the way of the experiment.

In my last report I quoted the average price of shore fish at $3 per qtl., and Labrador at $2.30. By the returns herewith you will notice the average rate to be about $2.50 and $2.00, respectively, for the year 1896–7.

The exports in connection with the codfishery were :—

——	1895–6.		1896–7.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
		$		$
Codfish, dry ...	1,436,083 qtls.	4,297,699	1,135,817 qtls.	2,824,242
Cod oil	4,456 tuns	311,920	3,705 tuns	245,360
Cod liver oil ...	33,145 gals.	33,145	87,601 gals.	39,420
Fresh, green, and pickled codfish, haddock, ling, sounds, and tongues.	—	5,633	—	2,346
Total ...	—	4,648,397	—	3,111,368

Seal Fishery.

The prosecution of this fishery in the spring of 1897 resulted in but poor returns. The values are quoted, for seal oil, $75.00 per tun, and for seal-skins an average of 60 cents each, against $70.00 and $1.25, respectively, for 1895–6. Seal-skins vary in value according as they are the pelts of old or young or whitecoats, and the average price is, of course, affected by the proportion of these in the season's catch.

The exports from this fishery are :—

——	1895–6.		1896–7.	
		$		$
Seal oil	3,305 tuns.	230,068	3,283 tuns.	246,263
Seal-skins	298,049 No.	372,461	195,340 No.	117,204
Total ...	—	602,529	—	363,467

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1896–7.

Lobster Fishery.

The yield of this important fishery, which, in this year under review, ranks next to the codfishery, was very encouraging indeed. The export was 58,883 cases, valued at $529,947; against 45,662 cases, valued at $376,711, for the previous year. The diminution in the size of the fish calls for notice, and shows the need of judicious legislation guarding the fishery. Such legislation, firmly and steadily enforced, together with a careful pack on the part of the canners, will ensure this industry being a source of wealth to those engaged therein.

Herring Fishery.

This fishery shows a lamentable falling off from what it was some few years ago. The export in 1896–7, compared with the previous year, was :—

——	1895–6.		1896–7.	
		$		$
Frozen herring ...	32,628 brls.	32,628	43,513 brls.	52,216
Pickled do. ...	40,113 brls.	98,665	19,731 brls.	49,960
Total ...	72,741 brls.	131,293	63,244 brls.	102,176

The prices ruling were $1.20 per barrel for frozen and $2.50 for pickled; against $1.00 and $2.45 in 1895–6.

Salmon Fishery.

A slight improvement, both in the catch as well as in the price, shows itself for 1896–7. From $17.40 per tierce in 1895–6 the price went to $19.25 in 1896–7.

The export was :—

——	1895–6.		1896–7.	
		$		$
Salmon, pickled ...	3,284 tcs.	57,003	4,648 tcs.	89,581
„ preserved ...	—	9,340	—	688
Total ...	—	66,343	—	90,269

The smaller fisheries are too unimportant for notice. The total export of our fisheries for the year 1896-7 was $4,208,747, against $5,853,156 for 1895-6.

SHIPPING.

The following figures give the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared from ports of this Colony, for the year ending 30th June, 1897, as compared with the previous year :—

Entered

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage
Sailing	1,183	107,689	1,107	95,145
Steam	352	316,178	295	285,410
	Cleared.			
Sailing	815	83,801	881	78,962
Steam	272	284,228	239	258,186
Total ...	2,622	791,896	2,522	717,703

Of the above the following were British :—

Entered.

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Sailing	1,074	94,387	1,009	84,248
Steam	339	304,788	286	278,549
	Cleared.			
Sailing	767	77,781	852	75,759
Steam	261	271,876	234	253,261
Total ...	2,441	748,832	2,381	691,817

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1896–7.

LUMBERING.

A great deal of activity exists in this branch of our industries, which is yearly becoming of more value to the people of the Colony. Lumber in all its forms is now produced to meet the local needs. The subject of pulp manufacture is being prominently brought forward, and will, no doubt, in the near future, be entered into largely, for there is abundance of timber in the island most suitable for this purpose.

MINING.

The product of our mines in 1896–7 was somewhat behind that of the previous year, but still came up to the average. Outside capitalists are evincing an interest in our mineral deposits, and if experienced miners, with the necessary capital behind them, can be got to develop these deposits properly, the future of Newfoundland as a mining country will be assured. Already we have several outside syndicates here who have, up to the time of writing (1898), expended large sums in machinery, tramways, and loading piers. Prospectors are moving over the face of the island, and up and down the coast of Labrador, and the indications of increased activity in mining are very apparent. The Government have afforded encouragement and help to all interested, by the establishment of a Public Assay Office, where minerals, discovered by those of limited means, will be tested and reported upon free of cost. The deposit of hematite on Bell Island still continues to yield as largely as ever, and operations on a still larger scale are proposed for the season of 1899.

In 1896–7 the export, compared with that of 1895–6, was as follows :—

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		$		$
Regulus (copper) ...	22,922	275,064	13,427	161,124
Copper ore	41,750	208,750	48,361	241,805
Iron pyrites	36,496	182,480	31,185	155,925
Asbestos	—	2,000	—	- -
Total ..	—	668,294	—	558,854

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the year ending 30th June, 1897, compared with that of the previous year, is as follows :—

—	1895–6.	1896–7.
	$	$
From Customs	1,383,810	1,473,267
„ Light Dues	33,073	28,195
„ Postal	38,300	50,560
„ Profit on Issue of Coin	48,862	—
„ Miscellaneous	60,421	58,766
Total	1,564,466	1,610,788

The revenue actually collected is slightly in excess of the estimated amount, while the increase over that for 1895–6 is $46,322.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :

Service.	1895–6.	1896–7
	$	$
Education	126,822	154,438
Judicial, Magisterial, and Police	89,297	115,981
Public Works, Light Houses, and Public Buildings.	63,588	221,150
Postal, Mail Subsidies, Railways, Telegraphs.	209,158	242,478
Salaries and Pensions	107,349	108,520
Customs	43,012	120,647
Relief of Poor	146,474	178,441
Interest on Public Debt	522,810	599,160
Miscellaneous	51,945	71,147
Legislative	—	54,848
Total	1,360,455	1,866,810

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1896–7.

The grant for education, which had been reduced in 1895–6 under retrenchment, was restored to its full figure in 1896–7; and a grant for public works was made for the repair of roads and bridges. These and some other allocations were made out of the excess of revenue over expenditure in 1895–6, which was shown by the returns tabled by the Receiver-General to be $204,011. The Customs expenditure for 1895–6, as shown above, is for six months only, while that for 1896–7 is for the 12 months. In 1896–7 were charged the expenses of the two legislative sessions—one held in July and August, 1896, and the other in the spring of 1897. There was none holden in the currency of 1895–6.

The actual expenditure for the year exceeds the actual revenue by $256,022; while, deducting the surplus of 1895–6 ($204,011) the shortage is $52,011.

The statement of assets and liabilities, tabled by the Receiver-General, shews a balance in favour of the Colony of $662,604.36. On the debit side will be noticed an amount of $167,314.50 down to dividend account. This is not an actual liability. It is the amount received to that date from dividends paid on the notes of the defunct banks, the total sum of which appears on the credit side as an asset, viz.:—$225,459.80. The sum of $360,000 on deposit at bank of Montreal represents the balance of loan raised in May, 1895.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at 30th June, 1896, stood at $13,096,945.39. At 30th June, 1897, it was $16,248,522.05. The increase of $3,151,576.66 is made up as follows:—

		$ c.
St. John's Rebuilding Act	...	14,712 69
N. N. and W. Railway	...	1,713,002 20
Newfoundland Railway	...	1,581,666 66
		$3,309,381 55
Less paid off	...	157,804 89
Nett increase of	...	$3,151,576 66

Assuming the population to be 210,000, the debt *per capita* is $77.37; the multiple of revenue being $10.08.

RAILWAYS.

Early in 1897 the Government of the day concluded negotiations with the Newfoundland Railway Company, whereby, for the sum of £325,000 stg. payable in bonds of 50 years at 3 per cent. interest, all the rights of the said company in this Colony were transferred to the Government.

The whole railway system of the Colony was thus brougbt under one control, and the injunction placed by the Newfoundland Railway Company upon the disposition of the coal areas near Grand Lake was removed. An arrangement with Mr. Reid to place a first class passenger ship on the strait dividing our Island from the mainland of the neighbouring continent, brought the transinsular railway system of the Colony into close connection with the great Canadian and American lines.

LEGISLATION.

The titles of the various Acts passed by the Legislature in the session of 1897 will be found in the Blue Book.

Of these, two were reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, viz. :—" An Act to amend Chapter 124 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series), entitled 'Of the Coast Fisheries' "; and " An Act to amend the Election Act, 1889, and the Acts in amendment thereof." These Acts did not become law.

EDUCATION.

The grants for this service, reduced in 1895–6, were this year put back to the figure at which they stood previous to retrenchment. The total expenditure under this head for 1895–6 was : $126,821.86 ; and for 1896–7, $154,438.07.

No. of schools open in 1895–6	588
No. of schools open in 1896–7	625
No. of scholars on roll in 1895–6	33,722
No. of scholars on roll in 1896–7	32,207

In bringing to a close this brief record of the Colony's affairs for 1896–7, I may add that at this time of writing things have brightened considerably. Trade has improved, the prices paid

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1896–7.

for our fishery products are higher, foreign markets are stronger, provisions are reasonable, greater interest continues to develop in mining and agriculture, while the evident interest of the Imperial Government in the welfare of the Colony, as shown by the appointment of the Royal Commission in connection with the French Treaties question, and the appointment of the Premier as a member of the High Commission now sitting at Washington, engenders the hope that the day of a new and better order of things is at hand.

I have, &c.,

J. ALEX. ROBINSON,

Colonial Secretary.

8*th December*, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 237.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-97.

(For Report for 1895–96, *see* No. 197.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046–5.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
210	Hong Kong	1896
211	St. Lucia...	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 237.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(For Report for 1895-96, *see* No. 197.)

GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON (QUEENSLAND) to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Brisbane,
5th April 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the usual number of copies of the Annual Report of British New Guinea for the year ending 30th June 1897.

The evidence given in the Report of the progress made in the general administration affords ground for special satisfaction. It gives further evidence how incessantly is Sir William MacGregor engaged in the arduous work of administration, and how, despite the small resources at his command, his devotion serves to overcome the many difficulties connected with the carrying out of his duties.

I have, &c.,

LAMINGTON.

168*—75—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896–97.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from 1ST JULY 1896 to 30TH JUNE 1897.

INDEX.

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	Preliminary	7
	LEGISLATION.	
1.	Ordinances passed during year 1896–97	7
2.	Regulation passed by Native Regulation Board	8
3.	Proclamations having Force of Law...	8
	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.	
4.	Staff for Administration of Justice; Particulars of Matters dealt with Judicially	9
5.	Remarks on Matters dealt with Judicially	16
	ADMINISTRATIVE VISITS OF INSPECTION.	
6.	Visit of Inspection to various places in East End of Possession	18
7.	Journey of Inspection from Mouth of Mambare River across the Island	19
8.	Visit of Inspection to certain places in Eastern Portion of the Possession	22
9.	Visit of Inspection to Western Division of the Colony ...	23
10.	Visit to Mambare River District, and steps taken to discover Perpetrators of Murders at Peu, Gadara, &c. ...	23
11.	Visit of Inspection to the Kiriwina Group	25

INDEX—*continued.*

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	REPORTS BY OFFICERS.	
12.	Report of Resident Magistrate for Western Division ...	25
13.	Report of Resident Magistrate for Eastern Division ...	25
14.	Report of Resident Magistrate for Central Division ...	26
15.	Report of Resident Magistrate for South-Eastern Division	27
16.	Report of Government Agent for Rigo District	27
17.	Report of Government Agent for Mekeo District... ...	28
18.	Report of Commandant of Armed Constabulary	28
19.	Report of Travelling Government Agent	28
20.	Report of Head Gaoler	28
	MISSIONS.	
21.	Visit made by General Secretaries of Wesleyan Mission and London Missionary Society; Visit of Inspection to London Missionary Society's Schools at Port Moresby...	29
	MINING.	
22.	Remarks on Numbers, Distribution, and Conduct of Miners generally	29
23.	Prospecting Expedition undertaken in Central Division ...	30
24.	Assistance rendered by Government to Miners in Central Division	30
25.	Stores taken for relief of Sick and Indigent Miners ...	31
26.	Mining Operations in South-Eastern Division	32
27.	Results obtained in Upper Mambare District and Moni Valley...	32
28.	Disappointing Nature of Mining Results generally ...	32
29.	Return of Miners' Rights issued during year	33

INDEX—*continued.*

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	TRADE.	
30.	Imports	34
31.	Exports	35
32.	Shipping	38
33	Postal	39
	FINANCE.	
34.	Revenue	40
35.	Expenditure	40
36.	S.S. "Merrie England"	42
37.	Reason for Expenditure in excess of Appropriation ...	42
	SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.	
38.	Report on Birds by Mr. De Vis	42
39.	Report by Mr. J. B. Cameron on Land Surveyed	42
40.	Report by Mr. W. E. Buchanan on Result of Expedition to Foot of Main Range	43
	METEOROLOGICAL.	
41.	General Remarks on Climatic Conditions	43
	ESTABLISHMENT.	
42.	List of Officers ; Losses by Death during Year	44
	GENERAL.	
43	Assistance rendered by Government of Queensland ; Good Work performed by Civil Service of Possession... ...	47

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR to LORD LAMINGTON.

British New Guinea,

17th January 1898.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit the usual Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1897. The arrangement of subjects is generally the same as that of previous years.

LEGISLATION.

1. Ordinance No. IV. of 1896 was passed after it was found that the mineral osmiridium occurs in traces round the eastern spurs of Mount Scratchley and in the valley of the Chirima. It became advisable to extend to prospectors for this metal the same privileges as are given to prospectors for gold. The Ordinance does this by including the metals of the platinum group under the term "gold" in the goldfields laws in force in the Colony.

Ordinance No. V. of 1896 appropriates for the services of the year ending 30th June 1897 the sum of £15,000, the ordinary amount available for a period of twelve months under the arrangement between the Imperial Government and the contributing Colonies, as well as the sums required for the maintenance of the S.S. "Merrie England."

Ordinance No. VI. of 1896 appropriates a special sum of £1,000 for the purchase and preliminary survey of blocks of land to be set apart for the encouragement of European settlement. The three contributing Colonies agreed that this sum should be provided from the accumulated and undivided revenue collected in the Possession.

Ordinance No. I. of 1897 was passed to impose a licence on firearms. This measure was very unpopular, principally because there is not such a licence in the neighbouring Colonies. It would have been difficult to carry out in some parts of the Colony under the circumstances, and it has lately been repealed.

Ordinance No. II. of 1897 makes certain amendments to "The Native Labour Ordinance of 1892." It has been the policy of the Government to relax or remove restrictions on the employ-

ment of native labourers in proportion as the advancing pacification of the country has made this possible. This law permits of natives being taken for engagement before any officer in a settled district qualified to deal with labour contracts. By a Proclamation issued on the 4th February the whole of the southern coast of the Colony, from its boundary on the west as far as Samarai, was declared to be a settled labour district under the Ordinance; the effect of which is that labourers, recruited, for example, in Orangerie Bay, or in the western portion of the Gulf of Papua, may be taken before a magistrate at Port Moresby for engagement, thus avoiding the considerable time and trouble that would be required in taking them to Samarai or Daru.

The same law also renders it compulsory on an engaged native, under liability to imprisonment, to perform the duties he has undertaken.

Ordinance No. III. of 1897 amended the Customs Ordinance in so far that the duty on spirits was raised by it from 12*s*. to 14*s*. a gallon.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1897 amends the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-mer Fishery Ordinance of 1894, by prohibiting the fishing of or dealing in pearl-shell of less dimensions than five inches. This law was necessary to bring restrictions in the Possession into conformity with those applied in Queensland waters. Certain exceptional cases are dealt with similarly in the two Colonies.

Ordinance No. V. of 1897 amends the Goldfields Act in force in the Possession by enabling the Administrator in Council to extend beyond three years from the date of the proclamation of a locality as a goldfield the term during which Asiatic or African aliens shall not be admitted upon such a field. This brings the mining law of the Possession into unison with the law on the same point in Queensland.

2. During the year only one Regulation was passed by the Native Regulation Board, dealing with native carriers for Government. This Regulation, subject to certain precautionary measures to guard against abuse or oppression, makes it obligatory on such natives as are fit to act as carriers, to serve once a year in that capacity, if called upon to do so. Carriers are to be fed by the Government, and to receive such pay as may from time to time be determined by the Administrator.

3. Certain Proclamations were issued having the force of law By a Proclamation made on the 5th August, the removal of any cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, or pigs from the Island of Sudest to any other island or district in the Possession is prohibited.

This was rendered necessary by the thoughtless introduction into Sudest of cattle affected by ticks.

Owing to the reported existence of small-pox in German New Guinea, that territory was, by a Proclamation made in August, declared to be an infected place under the quarantine law of British New Guinea.

By a Proclamation made in March the introduction of cattle, horses, or mules into the Possession from any place in Queensland south of "the tick boundary" is permitted under certain restrictions. By a Proclamation issued in June 1896, the introduction of such animals from Queensland had been absolutely prohibited.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

4. The staff for the administration of justice remained practically the same as in the preceding year.

The subjoined tables of cases dealt with by the several courts have been prepared by His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer :—

MATTERS dealt with JUDICIALLY during the YEAR ending 30th June 1897.

CENTRAL COURT.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how Disposed of.
17	Central District ...	13 tried, 4 discharged.
22	Eastern District ...	12 tried. 10 committal quashed.
25	Western District ...	21 tried, 1 discharged, 1 sent back to magistrate, 2 awaiting trial.
Total ... 64		

THE COURT held EIGHTEEN CRIMINAL SESSIONS at the PLACES and TIMES, and with the RESULTS, undermentioned :—

No. of Persons Tried	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		Trobriand Islands, 2*nd to* 4*th July*, 1896.	
2	1 murder, 1 abusing girl under twelve.	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 not guilty.	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
		Fergusson Island, 10*th July*, 1896.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
		Samarai, 13*th July*, 1896.	
1	1 wounding with intent, &c.	1 guilty of wounding	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Normanby Island, 25*th to* 28*th July*, 1896.	
3	1 assault, 2 murder.	1 guilty of assault, 2 guilty of manslaughter.	1 six months', 1 eighteen months', 1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
		Orangerie Bay, 12*th August*, 1896.	
4	2 murder, 2 assault.	2 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of assault, 1 not guilty.	1 two years', 1 twelve months', 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Port Moresby, 18*th September*, 1896.	
5	3 murder, 1 arson, 1 indecent assault.	2 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of arson, 1 guilty of indecent assault.	2 death, 1 one years', 1 four months', 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Samarai, 12*th November*, 1896.	
3	3 larceny ...	3 not guilty.	

CRIMINAL SESSIONS—*continued.*

No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		Samarai, 26*th to* 28*th Nov.*, 1896.	
1	1 abusing girl under ten.	1 not guilty.	
		Samarai, 8*th December*, 1896.	
2	2 murder ...	2 guilty of manslaughter.	2 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Nivani, 9*th to* 11*th Jan.*, 1897.	
2	1 wounding with intent, &c., 1 assault.	1 guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, 1 guilty of assault.	1 ten years' penal servitude, 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Dufaure Island, 14*th January*, 1897.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Port Moresby, 23*rd January*, 1897.	
3	3 murder ...	3 guilty of murder ...	3 death.
		Port Moresby, 27*th January*, 1897.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of murder ...	1 death.
		Port Moresby, 2*nd February*, 1897.	
1	1 murder ...	1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS—*continued.*

No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
		Samarai, 9*th April*, 1897.	
2	Breaking gaol ...	2 guilty	1 four months', 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Saguana, 17*th to* 20*th May*, 1897.	
21	3 murder, 1 manslaughter, 1 rape, 14 indecent assault, 1 abusing girl under ten, 1 wounding.	4 guilty of manslaughter, 1 not guilty of rape, 13 guilty 1 not guilty of indecent assault, 1 guilty of abusing girl under ten years of age, 1 guilty of wounding.	4 one years' imprisonment with hard labour, 3 two years' imprisonment with hard labour, 10 eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour, 1 three years' penal servitude, 1 three months' imprisonment, &c.
		Port Moresby, 24*th to* 26*th May*, 1897.	
9	3 murder, 6 manslaughter.	2 guilty, 1 not guilty of murder, 5 guilty, 1 not guilty of manslaughter.	2 death, 1 three years' penal servitude, 1 eighteen months', 2 one year's, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
		Samarai, 11*th June*, 1897.	
1	larceny	guilty	nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 63			

CIVIL BUSINESS.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
2	Appeals from Wardens' Courts.
2	Applications for order under section 34 of Intestacy Act by Curator of Intestacy Estates.
2	Applications for order to administer by Curator of Intestate Estates.
3	Applications by Curator of Intestate Estates for directions.
2	Applications by Executors for probate.
Total 11	

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

INDICTABLE OFFENCES JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	18	15 murder	17 committed, 1 discharged.
		1 manslaughter...	
		2 indecent assault	
Eastern District	31	9 murder	22 committed, 9 discharged.
		2 abusing female child... ...	
		4 assault...	
		12 larceny	
		1 rape	
		1 wounding	
		2 breaking out of gaol... ...	
Western District	25	5 murder	25 committed.
		13 indecent assault	
		4 wounding	
		1 rape	
		1 manslaughter...	
		1 abusing female child ...	
Total ...	74		

SUMMARY OFFENCES JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	57	6 larceny	5 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 breach of Bêche-de-mer and Pearl-shell Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		4 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	4 convicted.
		16 assault...	15 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 careless use of fire	1 convicted.
		4 breach of Prisons Ordinance	4 convicted.
		1 breach of Wild Birds Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		1 using threatening language ...	1 convicted.
		23 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	23 convicted.
Eastern District	81	8 assault...	3 convicted, 5 discharged.
		6 drunk and disorderly ...	5 convicted, 1 discharged.

SUMMARY OFFENCES—*continued.*

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Eastern District —*continued.*		1 breach of Quarantine Laws...	1 convicted.
		33 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	24 convicted, 9 discharged.
		3 breach of Prisons Ordinance	3 convicted.
		4 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	4 convicted.
		1 breach of Merchant Shipping Act.	1 convicted.
		25 larceny	20 convicted, 5 discharged.
Western District	6	2 assault...	2 convicted.
		4 larceny	4 convicted.
Total ...	144		

CIVIL JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No. of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	4	4 debt	3 verdict for plaintiff.
			1 verdict for defendant.
Eastern District	14	11 debt	3 verdict for plaintiff.
			3 verdict for defendant.
			5 settled out of court.
		3 damages	1 verdict for plaintiff.
			1 verdict for defendant.
			1 settled out of court.
Western District	—	Nil.	
Total ...	18		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION (FORBIDDEN ACTS).

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	146	6 spreading lying reports ...	6 convicted.
		11 assault...	11 convicted.
		44 larceny	42 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 abduction	1 discharged.
		5 disobeying magistrates' orders	5 convicted.
		5 adultery	5 convicted.
		49 breach of Roads Regulation	49 convicted.
		24 breach of Burials Regulation	24 convicted.
		1 sorcery	1 convicted.
No. 3 (Eastern)	39	13 adultery	10 convicted, 3 discharged.
		3 larceny	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		3 spreading lying reports ...	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		11 sorcery	11 convicted.
		7 breach of Burials Regulation	7 convicted.
		2 using threatening language...	2 discharged.
No. 1 (Western)	17	12 adultery	12 convicted.
		4 assault...	3 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 larceny	1 convicted.
Total ...	202		

CIVIL JURISDICTION (CIVIL CLAIMS).

District of Court.	No. of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	9	7 debt	6 for plaintiff, 1 for defendant.
		2 damages	2 for plaintiff.
No. 3 (Eastern)	1	1 damages	1 for plaintiff.
No. 1 (Western)	—	Nil.	
Total ...	10		

TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court		64
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the cases that went up to Central Court).	64	154
In Native Magistrates' Courts		202
In all Courts		420

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court	11
In Courts of Petty Sessions	18
In Native Magistrates' Courts	10
In all Courts	39

5. During the year eight persons, all of them aboriginals, were sentenced by the Central Court to undergo capital punishment, In no case was the death sentence actually carried out. These cases were briefly as follows :—

In September, a native of Yarumi, on the Astrolabe Range, was tried for a murder committed by him in 1892, when his tribe made an attack on the Veiburi sept. Two other members of the same aggressive party were tried for the same offence in 1895, and were convicted. In their cases the sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude. The accused acknowledged the crime with which he was charged. The sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In 1894 some of the men of the village of Borabora, who were wandering around in the woods, were attacked by a body of men from the village of Bemuni. Two of the Borabora natives were killed. The cause of this attack was the marriage of a girl belonging to a third village to one of the Borabora men. Negotiations had been opened by one of the Bemuni men, called Moiamoria, for a marriage between himself and the girl. He and his friends seemed to have regarded the marriage of the girl to the Borabora man as a grievous injury, which, according to native custom, required to be avenged. Moiamoria was captured in 1896, and tried for his participation in the above murder. The capital sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In January, three natives of Uberi were convicted of the murder of certain members of the tribe of Awaiatenumu. The Uberi represented the strongest section of the natives of the district who, under the name of Ebé, had become notorious from the attacks made on the travellers, Mr. Morrison and Dr. H. O. Forbes. They have alway been aggressive in recent years, and have been engaged in many conflicts with their neighbours. Ten

men of the Uberi met a man and a small boy of Awaiatenumu in the bush. They killed the small boy. The murderer acknowledged that he had committed the homicide.

A party of the Uberi made a direct attack on Awaiatenumu village, and killed three of its inhabitants. Two of the assailants were convicted. They also admitted their participation in the crime.

These cases were all regarded as episodes in the intertribal warfare that had existed there periodically for many generations. The strife had been forced on the people attacked, who really wished for peace; but Government authority had not been established over the Uberi. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude in each case.

In January, a native of the Hagari tribe, which occupies the southern spurs of Mount Service on the banks of the Naoro and Ruguoa, was convicted of murder. His tribe had made a descent on a village on the Lower Vanapa, and killed a woman there. The constabulary, under the leadership of the Commandant, crossed from the Lower Vanapa, traversed several mountain ranges, and arrested one man after a slight skirmish with the tribe. The accused admitted that he assisted in committing the murder. The Hagari tribe was unknown to the Government previously, and they had no acquaintance with the administration in any way. The capital sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In May, two men of the Womai village of Karama, in Freshwater Bay, were sentenced to death for the murder of a reputed sorcerer. It had been currently said of this latter that he had caused the death of five persons by sorcery. The two men convicted killed the sorcerer the day after the death of the child of one of them, under the idea that he had brought about the death of the child, and that they were therefore performing a meritorious service. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

Sittings at the Central Court were held as under :—

In the South-Eastern District 1, at Nivani.

In the Eastern District 11 : 1 at Kiriwina ; 1 at Fergusson Island ; 6 at Samarai ; 1 at Normandy Island ; 1 at Orangerie Bay ; 1 at Dufaure Island.

In the Central District 5, at Port Moresby.

In the Western District 1, at Saguana.

Of the 64 persons committed for trial before the Central Court, 46 were actually tried ; and at the end of the year 2 were still awaiting trial. The others were discharged or acquitted.

Of the 37 cases due to violence, 23 were charges of murder, 7 of manslaughter, 3 of wounding, and 4 of assault. The sexual crimes charged were 19.

In the lower courts 144 cases were disposed of in summary jurisdiction. Of these, 56 were for breach of the Native Labour Ordinance, and 35 for larceny. Six persons were proceeded against for being drunk and disorderly, all in the Eastern District.

In the civil jurisdiction of the lower courts 18 cases were heard.

In the Native Magistrates' Courts 202 cases were tried. The principal offences were convictions under :—

The Road Regulation	49	cases
For stealing	48	„
For breach of Burial Regulation ...	31	„
For adultery	30	„
For assault	15	„
For sorcery	12	„
For spreading lying reports	9	„

Ten cases came before the civil jurisdiction of the Native Courts.

The total number of cases dealt with in all Courts was 459.

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

6. On the 20th July a call was made at Dufaure Island, chiefly to pick up a party that had been sent to visit the inland tribes of Orangerie Bay. These were found to be friendly, and the district to be in peaceful quiet.

The gaol and prisoners were seen to be in a satisfactory condition at Samarai, while several improvements on the island were in progress.

On 22nd July the station at Nivani was inspected, with a satisfactory result. The plantations of the station were doing well. The prison, which was clean, contained only four prisoners.

At Hula Bay, on Sudest Island, a careful inspection was made of a body of some fifty prisoners employed temporarily in the service of the British New Guinea Gold Mining Company. The company were endeavouring to open up some gold-bearing quartz reefs near the centre of the island, the first attempt of the kind made in the Possession. They had, however, several miles of road to make over very difficult ground, and on this the prisoners were nearly all employed. They were under the sole management of the chief gaoler, with the usual staff of prison warders and an armed guard of the constabulary. These officers were paid by the company, who also maintained the prisoners and paid a small sum a day for each prisoner. The men were in excellent physical condition, well provided with food and medicine, and they were doing good work. Unfortunately, the troublesome disease " beriberi " made its appearance among them before they had completed the year agreed on, and several of them died of

that malady. It has on several occasions manifested itself among the prisoners, but it was not expected among fine strong men, who were sufficiently well fed, and were camped in the open forest.

It was found that numbers of natives of Sudest were working at gold-washing on their own account, on regular miners' rights. A visit was made to Woodlark Island at the end of July. At that time there were about 190 miners on the island, the greater number in a camp about eight miles from the sea, chiefly under canvas, but with a few houses of native material. Mr. Thompson, a storekeeper at this place, was, by the request of the miners, appointed a justice of the peace and postmaster. There were no disputes between the miners themselves. They raised no objection to the natives of the island working gold on their own account, but demurred to Europeans using natives to exploit the field on behalf of the former. The great majority of the men were industrious workmen of good character. Many men had done well on this field. There had not then been much sickness, and, fortunately, there had been no trouble between the miners and the natives. It was thought that up to that time about 12,000 ozs. of gold had been obtained on the island.

A short halt made at the north side of Misima found all quiet and satisfactory there. There were not more than half-a-score of European miners on the island. The natives there do not prosecute the gold industry on their own account like those of Sudest.

7. On the 6th August I started from the mouth of the Mambare River on a journey of inspection that was extended right across the island. The lower villages of the Mambare were practically deserted through fear of the natives of the Gira River. The people of Peu were timid, as they had some time previously tried to entrap Mr. Green, the Government Agent of the district. The inhabitants of Manatu were friendly. The Government station on the Mambare was found to be in good order. During the few days we were at the station natives came there each day to sell food. They did not, however, give one the impression that they could be safely trusted if they thought themselves the stronger party. It was on this visit to the Mambare that we for the first time learned how the natives make the hole for the reception of the wooden handle in stone clubs. It is chipped out by means of a small stone about the size and nearly of the shape of a rifle bullet. Thunderstorms began for the first time that season on the 9th August, on the mountains to the north-west of the station.

A start was made from the station on the 11th August, and the same day, after passing over a large area of nearly flat and good land, we camped at the Green, an affluent of the Mambare coming from Mount Otovia. Beyond the Green the country passed over was considered very unsuitable for ordinary agriculture, though it is well watered. It took our party four days

to reach Simpson's store on Mount Otovia. This was a camp consisting of two or three native houses built by the pioneer prospectors of the district, of whom Mr. William Simpson had been leader. They cut a track from Clarke Fort, on the left bank of the Mambare, as far as the junction of the Chirima with the Mambare, by far the most arduous undertaking ever performed by any private exploring party in the Colony. We followed this track, and consequently did not require to cut our way through the bush until we began to ascend Mount Scratchley. No trace of native occupation was met with between the Tamata and the Chirima, but there was abundant evidence of a large rainfall in that district, and this seems to favour the growth of several kinds of rubber-producing trees. From Simpson's store all the carriers that could be spared were sent back to the Government station. We arrived at the Chirima Junction on the 20th. Several miners were on their way to the coast, they being of opinion that the wet season was already setting in. It was soon quite plain that the Mambare River specially receives the drainage of Mount Scratchley, which it embraces on three sides.

At the crossing of the Chirima we built a strong, small log-house for stores, and for the defence of the two or three men left in charge. There we were visited by about a hundred natives from the village of Neneba, who brought us a large quantity of native food. They are the only tribe that actually live on a spur of Mount Scratchley. They were seen to be somewhat darker in tint than the coast people of the Central District, but to be distinctly lighter than the average Fly River man. They are of fair size, and wiry in build. No wavy-haired native was seen in that part of the country. The young men wear the eyebrows; their elders have whiskers. The features are good and not irregular. The men wear the T-bandage. The women, in addition to this, wear a petticoat and a mantle. The chief ornaments are earrings made of lizards' tails, and cigarette-holders carried in the lobe of the ear. The scaly ringworm was already among them, and known by the Louisiade name of "sipoma." They had the bow and arrow, and stone clubs. They, like many of the bow and arrow tribes, have no pottery. Besides the ordinary indigenous native crops, they cultivate maize and the tobacco of the western country. They have no cocoanuts and no betel-nut. The floors of their houses are 6 or 8 feet above the ground, the roof thatched with a kind of pandanus leaf. On the 30th of August the party reached the McLaughlin Creek, a fine mountain stream on the east side of Mount Scratchley, where all the miners except one were at work. They had a considerable number of native boys under engagement, from the north-east coast. These transported the food and stores from the Government station to the mining camps, and also worked on the field with fair skill and industry. They did not seem to be ill-treated, but the work was hard.

We followed the tracks of the prospectors to the furthest point inland, on a spur of Mount Scratchley facing the north end of the Yodda Valley, which begins there and extends southwards along the foot of the main range. Some of the natives of that place had made certain signs of friendly advancement towards the prospectors, but no communication was actually opened. On the 1st September the ascent of Mount Scratchley was begun, and on the 12th we pitched camp on the top. On the second day an altitude of 5,000 feet was reached, and we were then in a temperate climate. All vegetation was covered by moss and lichens, but the rains setting in regularly in the valleys below had not yet reached this altitude. From about 5,500 feet there was a good view to the gap or depression in the main range some ten or twelve miles east of Mount Victoria, but it did not seem to offer an inviting route by which to cross the mountain chain. The trailing climbing bamboo began between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. Most of the track was difficult to cut. The rains reached us about the 7th September, and attended us daily till we arrived at Doura on the south coast.

On the 8th September all carriers except ten were sent back to the Government station, and, in addition to these ten, three constables were kept. The first ice was seen in the early morning at an altitude of 10,200 feet. At 11,000 feet grass patches began in the cypress forest, and at about the same place several of the party began to suffer from the rarity of the air. At the top of the mountain attention was given to geographical matters, for which a fine 3-inch theodolite was used. Whilst I was so occupied, assisted by Mr. Green, Mr. English was cutting the track towards the Owen Stanley Range.

It was seen that the Owen Stanley Range is connected to Mount Scratchley and the Wharton Range, and through the latter to Mount Albert Edward without any deep intervening depression. The geological formation of the whole of this vast mountain mass is schist and quartz. It was thought the sources of the Angabunga (Mekeo) River had their origin from the west side of Mount Scratchley or the Wharton Chain, but it is now clear that these sources are further west, and begin at the western spurs of Mount Albert Edward. The village of Fofoana, on the left bank of the Ajibara, was the only village seen on the Wharton Chain. Some specimens of natural history were collected, but a collector was established and left on the top of Mount Scratchley.

On the 17th September, the native that was ahead cutting the track reached the top of Winter Height, on the Owen Stanley Range, and found traces of the road cut there in 1889 during the first ascent of Mount Victoria. On the following day we camped on the height, having had an easy road from the first camp on the top of Mount Scratchley to that place. It was decided that a visit should be made for geographical purposes to the top of Mount Victoria, where we arrived with four or five carriers on

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896–97.

the 20th, but found that nothing could be done in the fog and rain that lasted all day, and only the latitude could be taken at night. On the 22nd we travelled from the top of Mount Victoria to Winter Height in nine hours, and next day Mr. Green started back with his party to the Mambare Station. Mr. English and myself, with two constables and six carriers, continued the journey over the top of Mount Knutsford and down the Vanapa River. On the 29th we reached the village of Gosisi, on the Vanapa, the natives of which were much alarmed by our approach from the interior, as they had heard of no party being in that direction. They did not appear to know of any place or people on the other side of the Owen Stanley Range. The men of these tribes were remarkable for their excellent physical proportions and strength. They were timid and suspicious, but supplied us most liberally with food. On the 1st October they carried our effects to the hill above Tobiri, and finally to the Vanapa, at the foot of Mount Kowald. Beyond that point our 1889 track could not be followed, as all trace of it had disappeared. On the 12th September we arrived at the village of Koni, where we were well received. Next day we reached the sea-coast at Galley Reach. Short vocabularies were prepared of the dialects spoken at Neneba and Gosisi.

8. A start was made from Port Moresby on 9th November to visit the east end of the Possession. A passing visit was made to the Rigo Station, where matters were found progressing very satisfactorily. All was quiet in the neighbourhood of Suau, and also about Cape Vogel. On the 15th November we began the ascent of the Musa River with the steam launch and two whale-boats, but the former speedily became unserviceable. The river was flooded and difficult. The natives of Yasia, the first inhabited village, were timid but friendly. From that point it is possible to travel by native paths along the river, but the track is bad until the village of Dove is reached. The natives on the lower part of the river did not care about carrying for us, but the inhabitants of the upper villages were ready to do so, being less timid. When we had reached the hills I was obliged to return, owing to a very serious accident to Mr. Kowald, caused by the explosion of a dynamite cartridge he held in his hand. Two miners, McLennan and Simpson, went on to the Moni Valley with the carriers and six constabulary. They did not find any encouraging prospect. Descending the river with Mr. Kowald, we met a strong party of miners going up, several of whom were already sick. On the 7th December Mr. Kowald was placed on board the "Merrie England." On the 9th December we ascended the Mambare River to return Mr. Green to his station. The river had been flooded, and the lower natives had begun to build together at Gadara. A native of the Mambare district was taken back from Port Moresby by Mr. Green as one of his constabulary. This man and all the party received a friendly reception all along the river. There were about a dozen miners

at the station, half of them sick. There were said to be about as many more on the Upper Membare. Those that could not meet the expense of a passage in a private vessel were carried by the steamer to Samarai. Some of these miners did not treat their native boys well or fairly. Towards these latter the natives of the Mambare were decidedly unfriendly. The steamer left Samarai on the 18th December for Cooktown with Mr. Kowald on board. He died soon after in hospital there. Mr. Winter proceeded to Sudest in the steamer, and found the prisoners employed there to be in a satisfactory condition on the 8th January.

9. On the 8th February I left Port Moresby to make a visit of inspection in the western division of the Colony. The Daru Station was in a satisfactory condition, with large quantities of food in the gardens. A good and useful jetty was being built, and a new prison was under construction. A visit was made with a number of the principal men of the district to their hereditary fishing-grounds in the neighbourhood of the Barrier Reef, from whom it was learned that a line from Bramble Cay through the Moon Pass and thence to the south of Turn-Again and Deliverance Islands would secure their fishing rights and facilitate the work of administration in the west. No readjustment of boundary has yet been made between the two Colonies. On the 1st March we reached the Morehead River, intending to try to induce the natives there to resettle and rebuild their villages. We were accompanied by natives of Mawatta and of the Wassi Kussa, to make these acquainted with the Morehead people. The natives were friendly, but living scattered in the woods. They were favourably disposed to rebuild, and were anxious to receive a mission among them. Fifty-four natives of British New Guinea were then living at Boigu. It was arranged that they should return to their own country and rebuild in June. On the return journey I heard at Boigu of the murder of Mr. Green and others on the Mambare, news which was confirmed by the Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G., who arrived at Daru on the 11th March. It became necessary to travel from Daru to Port Moresby in the steam launch, in order to reach the Mambare as soon as possible. On the way a call was made at Saguana. There the Rev. James Chalmers was found to be successfully carrying on an English mission and school. The tribes visited, or rather passed, near the mouths of the Aird River were friendly. We reached Port Moresby with the steam launch on the 22nd March.

10. A start was made from Samarai, 10th April, to visit the Mambare district. Mr. Moreton had gone thither soon after the murders committed there by the natives, but he wisely abstained from undertaking any active operations against the tribes of the locality with the small force at his command. Some natives that were loitering about the coast, near the mouth of the Mambare, did not decline to enter into communication with us.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896–97.

The natives on the lower part of the river fled on our approach. The large village of Peu was deserted. The inhabitants of Manatu were the only ones that remained to receive us. These had always been friendly. At some of the Umi villages a number of articles taken from Europeans were found. The buildings in course of erection at the new station had not been injured, and the natives had begun to construct new houses for themselves higher up the river, from which they fled before we reached them. At some of these considerable quantities of ammunition were found. The whole district in the vicinity of the Government station was scoured by the constabulary, but the natives avoided any encounter with them, and soon abandoned that part of the country. One warrior of the Apochi tribe was captured, and another was shot dead in a skirmish with the natives of Peu in the thick scrub near the river bank. In a similar encounter with the Gadara tribe three men were arrested and one shot. None of the tribes ventured to make any show of open aggression or to threaten any attack on the constabulary. On the 1st May an attempt was made to surprise the village of Peu. There were about half-a-score of people there, but they escaped by abandoning their baggage. The whole country was again patrolled by the constabulary in several directions, and the formation of a new station at a better site was begun on the Tamata River. As it was most desirable to obtain a traverse of the Gira (boundary river), as far as it is navigable by boat, its ascent was begun on the 18th May. It is quite clear that the river opens into the sea in German territory, and speedily crosses the boundary line into British jurisdiction, but to again project a small loop on to or over the boundary, after which its course leads away to the south-west, like all other large rivers on the north-east coast.

There were undoubtedly many men from the hostile villages of the Mambare then seeking shelter on the Gira. The natives were timid, but not unfriendly. None were allowed to carry weapons, and they were not permitted free entrance to our camp. There is a good deal of fine planting land on this river, with many pleasant sites for building, and it has a comparatively large population. On the 6th June, the constabulary were led across the country from Apochi village towards the upper villages of the Gira. The country traversed between that and the village of Wade is not inviting in any sense. The villages of Wade and Diware contained, in addition to their own people, most of the fighting men of the hostile Mambare tribes. In an encounter with the constabulary two of their warriors were killed, and these tribes were cut off from those between Wade and the sea. A few days later they were forced to fight again, when four of their braves fell, and the others fled for their lives. It was not deemed necessary to inflict on them then any further loss of life, but it was decided to wait to see what change would take place with time.

11. A brief visit was made to the Kiriwina Group, on account of certain disturbances reported to have occurred there. Very satisfactory progress had been made by the Rev. Mr. Fellowes in mission work. The Resident Magistrate had experienced much trouble in putting an end to village burial. The traders had ceased to put obstacles in the way of mission work, and some of them had even rendered substantial assistance to Mr. Fellowes. Some tribal disputes were dealt with, and the surrender of some of the principals concerned was enforced. But what was, perhaps, of much greater importance, was that the great chief, Enamakala, was made to grant land for a mission site at his own village—a concession he had hitherto refused to make.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

12. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division reports that a fair advance was made by the natives in many ways, but in this he does not include house-building. Fortunately, the Burial Regulation has been well observed. Wabuda, which formerly gave us so much trouble, is now the most progressive tribe of the district. The Resident Magistrate has travelled a great deal in his division, visiting a number of villages that are unknown to me. At one of these, Baranoura, he saw the longest house we have yet met with in the Colony. It was 827 feet long and 40 feet wide. The natives were found to be friendly everywhere, and to be well disposed towards law and order. It is now well known that there are wide areas of rolling grassy lands, much of it fit for cultivation, between the sea and the Fly River. The majority of the offences dealt with under the Native Regulations was on account of adultery. Violation of women and children is still very frequent. A remarkable case is mentioned, in which a native was relieving his grief by the usual expedient of discharging arrows; one of these passed through a native house and then through the body of a man—a good example of the tremendous force with which the bamboo bow shoots its missiles. The constabulary have rendered excellent service during the year. There are now thirty-six village policemen in the division. In addition to much cultivation of food for the use of the station, two large undertakings were on hand—the construction of a much-needed jetty and the building of a new gaol. The Resident Magistrate speaks favourably of the progress made by the Rev. James Chalmers at Saguana, where great advantages to the natives will arise from their being taught in English. The health of the station and district was satisfactory. There is no doubt that the Resident Magistrate succeeded during the year in extending the influence and authority of the Government in a way that is very creditable to him.

13. The Resident Magistrate of the Eastern Division reports steady improvement on the part of the natives, which would,

however, be greater but for the evil done by coloured traders and loafers. An epidemic of dysentery caused many deaths at certain places. He enforced the Burial Regulations, but in some instances not without considerable perseverance. It appears that certain employers of native labourers did not treat them so well as they should have done. There are twenty-seven village constables in the district, but some are not efficient, not receiving sufficient supervision. A wharf, which has 19 feet of water at low tide, has been built by Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., at Samarai. The Government ketch "Siai" is sailed by an exclusively native crew. In the rubber industry competition runs so high that the profits of the trader are said to be narrow, but it is to be presumed that the native has advantage from that. Mission work, carried on by the three Protestant missions, has progressed quietly and steadily during the year. The Rev. Copland King put through the Press the Gospel of St. Luke, written in the language of Bartle Bay. A great deal of work was performed by the Magistrate on the coast line, which is not touched on in his report.

14. The Resident Magistrate for the Central Division considers the condition of the coast tribes east of Port Moresby to be most satisfactory, but there are still inland tribes near the foot of the main range not yet under control, though the influence of the village policemen of the coast tribes is steadily extending itself in that direction. Visits were made to the sandal-wood camps, the native labourers at which were all well cared for. In the west the Burial Regulations had to be enforced at Apiope. Three murderers were successfully arrested in the Opau villages, and two were arrested at Womai after some trouble, during which the natives discharged a shower of arrows on the constabulary. Bodies were exhumed to the number of sixty-four, and natives were punished under the Burial Regulation at several villages on the coast. The Magistrate ascended the Biaru as far as Amoamoaku. He had to remain over two months at Port Moresby to attend to sick and distressed miners.

Attention is drawn by him to the reign of terror caused by the Uberi tribe in the Astrolabe district, and the opinion is expressed that the Uberi and Hagari tribes are in touch with each other, and that a large force will be necessary to deal with them. The season was a dry one, and the natives about Port Moresby purchased with money a good deal of European food. A party informed the Magistrate that they had ascended Mount Victoria, and that the track was very easy. This ascent, it may safely be said, is purely imaginary. Such a road, if possible, would be very difficult from the Lower Brown. The epidemic of dysentery, mentioned by the Magistrate of the Eastern Division, also passed along the coast line of the Central Division. It is the first introduction of this form of the disease into the Possession, and was therefore, as might be

expected, of a virulent type. The Rev. Dr. G. W. Lawes is having his students taught the use of the fumigating box, with which they will be able to cure many cases of skin disease. It is reported that Mr. Chester attended most assiduously to any cases of sickness among the prisoners while they were under his care. The ketch "Lokohu" is in charge of a solely native crew.

15. The Resident Magistrate for the South-eastern Division states that serious crime is almost unknown in his district. The most backward part of it is Rossel Island, a natural result of its distance from Nivani. The tribes of Misima, once so savage and troublesome as almost to make one despair of them, are now so completely pacified that only petty breaches of Native Regulations have to be dealt with there. There are sixteen village constables in the division, and, with one exception, their conduct was all that could be desired. On the island station of Nivani, 3,250 cocoanuts have been planted, and some will soon be coming into bearing. The Resident Magistrate has here—as has been done at Daru and at Rigo—effected much saving to the Administration by the cultivation of food at the station. The labours and co-operation of the Rev. A. Fletcher, in the district of Panaietti, are very favourably commented on.

16. The Government Agent for the Rigo district has observed much advance in the way of peace and civilisation, and remarks on the absence of any serious crime. Many new inland tribes were brought into contact with European and Government officers for the first time. The natives showed great kindness to prospectors. He ascribes the spread of authority to some extent to the punishment inflicted on the Kokila tribe. Superstition is the greatest drawback to the civilising influences at work. The Government Agent complains of some trouble caused by the excessive zeal of certain South Sea teachers, while he eulogises the splendid results reached by some others. He visited the Uberi country with his detachment of constabulary to support Mr. Ballantine in dealing with that formerly refractory tribe. They proceeded as far as Baura. A number of new tribes were visited by Mr. Shanahan in some of the more inland parts of the district, so that the extension of the authority of the Government during the year was very considerable. It is stated that the natives are now steadily planting cocoanuts. Important improvements were carried out at the station in road-making and planting. There are over twenty village constables in the district, and they are said to be most useful. The Rigo detachment of armed constabulary consists of five men and a corporal; they give every satisfaction to the Government Agent. The sanitary condition of the station was good, but the natives of the district suffered from an epidemic of dysentery. Mr. English has prepared a vocabulary of the dialect spoken by the tribes immediately behind Aroma.

17. The Government Agent for the Mekeo district states that he found the tribes at first unsettled, the natives thinking that the death of his predecessor meant that they might recommence intertribal warfare. Cemetery burial is being extended. Some agitation was caused in connection with the regulation dealing with carriers for Government. This was occasioned by irregular action taken under the regulation, and doubtless would not have arisen had its provisions been attended to, and some little tact and care been exercised. Sorcery is still the cause of a great deal of trouble among the natives.

The Mekeo constabulary detachment consists of seven men and a corporal. Their behaviour has been satisfactory. Regret is expressed that the missions do not make stronger efforts to teach English.

18. The report of the Commandant shows that a large amount of useful work was performed by the force during the year over the greater part of the Colony. The Commandant was for some time in charge of the Mambare district, which he managed very successfully for some months during the absence of Mr. Green. During that period the turbulent natives of that district were restless, requiring action to be taken by the police on several occasions. The visit of the force to the Hagari district is described. It was, undoubtedly, a hard and difficult journey. The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 108 men, consisting of Papuans, with the exception of one man. Some of them have already served five years. The health of the men was, on the whole, good, and their conduct satisfactory. Substantial and commodious barracks for the force were erected at Port Moresby.

19. The Travelling Government Agent mentions that he visited certain tribes inland from Suabina in Orangerie Bay, where he was well received. Subsequently he visited Mount Scratchley, cutting a road from the McLaughlin Creek to the top of that mountain, and visiting the village of Neneba. He cut a new track of ninety miles from Doura to Sikube, and built along it thirteen camping-sheds. By the end of June he had fixed his camp on the Wharton Range. Mention is made of the vast inland field that is not in the present programme of the missions. Mr. Giulianetti collected two small vocabularies, spoken at Suku and Sikube respectively. He was discontented with the constabulary generally.

20. The greater part of the report of the late head gaoler has reference to the previous year, but is inserted herein because it was not received in time for the annual report of last year. Mention is made of the death of nine prisoners from beriberi, and of the unsatisfactory results by treatment. It will be noticed that Mr. Meredith held the Papuan character in considerable estimation.

MISSION WORK.

21. The two most notable events of the year in connection with the missions were visits of inspection by the general secretaries of the Wesleyan Mission and London Missionary Society. There is good reason to believe that these visits will have, as a result in each case, the establishment at an early date of an industrial school in connection with the respective missions. These are undertakings to which a full measure of support has been promised by the Government as far as it may be in the power of the Administration to encourage such work by the grant of suitable lands or in any other practical way. The London Missionary Society also contemplate establishing an inland mission, in a district that is eminently suitable for such a development with respect to both locality and population.

At page 3 of the appendices* to this report will be found a despatch* dealing with a visit paid to the schools of the London Missionary Society at Port Moresby. It is noticeable that the Rev. A. Hunte was very successfully conducting the upper school in the English language, a matter that cannot but be of the greatest importance in the near future to the rising generation of that district. The Rev. James Chalmers, on the Fly Estuary, and the Rev. C. W. Abel, at Kwato, also taught wholly or principally in English.

MINING.

22. During the year under review a large number of prospecting miners arrived in the Colony. None of these came to the Western Division.

About 400 men landed at Port Moresby. They travelled thence generally in three or four directions, on the Vanapa track, inland from Port Moresby, by the Rigo Station, and along the Angabunga River. In most instances they carried their own effects and tools, and in a very few days became quite unfit for the road. Unfortunately, most of them seemed unable to make for themselves suitable camping arrangements, and all the officers of the Government concur in stating that many men were thoughtless and careless, ill-provided with food, and in too many cases with no medicines whatever. The result was that after a very short time large numbers became very weak and gave way to fever and dysentery. In the Central Division six died in the temporary hospital at Port Moresby, about as many are known to have died on the tracks in the bush, one on board the "Merrie England," and several in the Cooktown Hospital. Of some 130 men that started inland on the Vanapa track, the majority did not get past the Evelyn Creek, two days inland from Doura. Only two small parties from the South Coast seem to have reached the eastern side of Mount Scratchley, and they consisted

* Not printed.

of, or were conducted by, men already accustomed to travel in the country. Nevertheless, the journey across by the Mount Knutsford track should be an easy one for, say, fifteen days.

The conduct of the old miners—of the men that have been at work for years in the Colony—has been good. They have generally dealt justly and fairly with the natives, and they have been law-abiding. But amongst the men that came to the Central District last year there was, as might have been expected, a margin, probably a small one, of a different complexion. By these some acts of robbery were committed on natives, which greatly interfered with the engagement of carriers for the Vanapa track. These acts of violence were not accompanied by more serious crimes, and they met with universal condemnation on the part of the great majority of the men themselves. The old hands who have worked with the natives for years spoke of these occurrences with one voice in terms of indignation. It was unfortunate that the perpetrators got away from the Possession without being prosecuted.

Several parties proceeded inland from Port Moresby towards the Brown River on prospecting tours, but it does not appear that they got any further than their predecessors in 1878, if they even got as far. They met with few natives. The relations between the prospectors and them were good, except in the case of Mr. Rochfort, who was attacked by the aggressive tribe of Bauro, who drove his small party back from Ginianumu after spearing a South Sea man.

23. Several parties went inland from the Rigo district. They were able to obtain local carriers, and they were very well received by the different tribes. Some of them took horses to within two days' march of the top of Mount Obree. Another well-led party, under Mr. W. E. Buchanan, prospected some new districts near Mount Nesbit.

Some three or four different parties proceeded inland from the coast, along the Angabunga River towards the interior, but the Government Agent of that district could not say with what result.

24. All that it was possible to do for the prospectors in the Central Division was done, not only by the officers of the Government but also by the private residents of that part of the Colony. Two officers, provided with armed constables and a large force of carriers, were occupied on the Vanapa path for some five or six months. It is, however, the case that the results, owing to an unfortunate departure from instructions, were not nearly as good as had been expected. The track was made perfectly safe as far as Mount Knutsford, beyond which there are no natives before reaching the Mambare. It was well provided with camping-sheds as far as Suku, and a private firm furnished a store for the sale of supplies at reasonable prices on this track. A Government Agent was equipped for occupying a station on

the top of the main range, whence he could visit places on either side of it within a wide area, and exercise a controlling influence on native tribes.

Several special expeditions were sent directly inland from Port Moresby to try to pacify that part of the country, so that it could be visited by the prospector, but the process of pacification was by no means completed in that region within the year.

In the Rigo district the Government Agent opened a path to the top of Mount Obree, passable for horses as far as the mountain itself. A special agent was also employed by the Government to visit a considerable number of new tribes in the inland districts there with the view of facilitating prospecting operations. It had been intended to employ this special agent in opening a track to the interior from Cloudy Bay, but that part of my instructions was not carried out during an absence on the Mambare. It need hardly be said that officers did anything they could to assist the practical work of the prospector in any direction possible. No sufficiently favourable results seem, however, to have been obtained on the south side of the main range, no "field" was discovered, and no workings even of a temporary character were established there.

25. Steps were promptly taken for the relief of indigent men and for the care of those who were sick. Funds were provided by general subscription for the opening and maintenance of a temporary hospital. For this a competent and trustworthy caretaker was engaged, and the whole establishment was managed by a local committee, on the principle that any person in want should receive gratuitous care and treatment, whilst those should pay that could do so. But, in addition to the contributions made in money, the institution while in operation received constant gifts from the ladies resident at Port Moresby.

Twenty-two patients were admitted for treatment, about half of them suffering from malarial fever. Of the six deaths that occurred, however, only one is entered against that disease by the medical officer, while three are put down to dysentery. A considerable number of men had free passages back to Australia by the S.S. "Merrie England," and many were transported by Government vessels along the coast. Those that were not sick, but who declared their means to be exhausted, received supplies from the Government store, although it appears that in some cases the rations so given did not quite come up to the somewhat high standard expected in certain instances. Dr. Blayney was detained at Port Moresby some two or three months to attend to the sick. Amongst the European residents of the place the earnest and sincere desire to assist in this work was universal, and the same feelings moved many men among the miners themselves; but not a few instances occurred in which men would assist neither themselves nor their mates.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1896–97.

26. In the South-eastern Division mining was carried on at Sudest Island, at Misima, and at Woodlark Island. Alluvial mining on Sudest has now assumed small proportions. The ten-head stamp battery in course of erection there was not in operation during the year. The prisoners employed, chiefly in road-making, by the company, had to be removed before the end of the year on account of an epidemic of beriberi. Not more than twelve or fifteen European miners worked on Misima. During the early months of 1897 the mining population of Woodlark Island increased to some 400 men, a number twice as great as the place could support. Some of the men lived comfortably in native huts they built for themselves, but many were too careless to do that, and lived in squalor under canvas. The season was wet, and there was much sickness among the men. Many did remarkable well, while others were very much disappointed. It was easy to obtain provisions on the field at a reasonable rate. There was no trouble between the miners and the natives. At the end of the year there remained about 250 men on this field.

27. In the Upper Mambare district nothing new was discovered, and the old ground became worked out. On this field three men remained during the whole of the wet season, and a brief record of events by one of them, John Schmitt, will be found as an enclosure to Appendix H hereto.* They were greatly indebted to the natives of Neneba for food and shelter. It appears that it rained almost every day. At the Government station on the Mambare a number of men suffered from fever and dysentery, and several died. They were supplied in many cases with medicine, food, and attendance by the Government. Most of the miners that ascended the Mambare River were assisted by Government boats and by the steam launch.

A prospecting party, accompanied by a detachment of armed constabulary and a number of Government carriers, led by Mr. W. Simpson, did some prospecting work in the Moni Valley. His account of this journey will be found as enclosure No. 1 to Appendix D hereto,* from which it will be seen that they found traces of gold at many places, and that they had no misunderstanding with the natives. A second party, unassisted by Government, did not appear to get as far as Mr. Simpson.

28. On the whole, the mining results of the year were disappointing. No deposits were found that, of themselves, would justify any considerable expenditure in road-making. Undoubtedly, much privation and suffering were endured by many of the prospectors; but it were idle to suppose that a tropical country, full of rugged mountains, scored in all directions by rivers and streams, and covered by dense forest, could be examined without fatigue and without incurring risk and danger. No person that is unable or unprepared to undergo hardship is or can be in his proper place in entering on a prospecting tour in

* Not printed.

this Colony. Experience has also shown that the prospectors are not always inclined to utilise the paths already cut for them. In too many instances they have thoughtlessly, and on the strength of misleading experience obtained elsewhere, started courageously on a journey inland in spite of all advice to the contrary, and have, with no food at all, or with articles of diet unsuitable for their condition, and without any medicines, speedily succumbed to sickness that with reasonable care and forethought could have been prevented. Probably no new country ever has or ever will be opened up without such sacrifices of human life. The officers of the Administration and the permanent residents of the Possession have done all they could to make these lamentable losses as light as possible. The prospecting of the Colony is still in its early infancy, and is not likely to be completed for many a long year yet.

29. The Treasurer has prepared the following

RETURN of MINERS' RIGHTS issued in the POSSESSION during the period 1st JULY 1896 to 30th JUNE 1897.

Year.	Central Division.	Eastern Division.	Louisiades Division.
1896.			
July	—	7	4
August ...	—	11	—
September ...	5	3	65
October ...	—	—	9
November ...	4	13	46
December ...	5	—	6
1897.			
January ...	5	10	37
February ...	14	8	3
March	11	—	42
April	41	7	2
May	8	7	6
June	10	—	—
Total ...	103	66	220

389 Miners' Rights = £149 10*s.*

TRADE.

The usual details of imports, exports, navigation, and postal matters are given in the appendices* to this report.

IMPORTS.

30. The total imports through the three ports of entry of the Colony have been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89 ...	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889–90 ...	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890–91 ...	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891–92 ...	10,379	13,377	—	23,755
1892–93 ...	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893–94 ...	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894–95 ...	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895–96 ...	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896–97 ...	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,392

The chief items imported may be arranged under the following heads :—

—	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food-stuffs	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252
Drapery and clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414
Tobacco and cigars ...	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407
Hardware	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828
Beverages	805	1,143	688	890	1,625
Building materials ...	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474
Other articles ...	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261
Total ... £	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261

* Not printed.

—	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	
	£	£	£	£	
Food-stuffs	7,181	8,062	9,328	20,752	
Drapery and clothing	3,002	2,901	3,149	5,758	
Tobacco and cigars ...	3,985	3,059	2,735	4,648	
Hardware	3,162	3,440	4,844	7,718	
Beverages	1,760	1,116	1,755	2,378	
Building materials ...	2,889	1,727	1,916	1,890	
Other articles ...	6,522	7,997	10,794	8,248	
Total ... £	28,501	28,302	34,521	51,392	

The increase in imports over the preceding year was thus £16,871. The advance on food-stuffs was £11,424; on drapery, £4,648; on tobacco and cigars, £1,913; on hardware, £2,874; on beverages, £623. There was a decrease on building materials of £26, and on other articles of £2,546. The increase under several of these headings was no doubt partly due to a greater influx of Europeans. This is shown clearly, for example, in the item of beverages, a class of article not used by the native part of the population.

EXPORTS.

31. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89 ...	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889–90 ...	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890–91 ...	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891–92 ...	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892–93 ...	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893–94 ...	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894–95 ...	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895–96 ...	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896–97 ...	39,349	4,658	338	44,345

The advance in the value of exports over the preceding year was £24,944. The largest item of export was gold; but the amount of this article as entered at the Custom House is doubtless very much less than what was actually taken away. There can be no doubt that at least twice the amount of gold declared was obtained in the Possession during the year. The figures here given are those declared at the Custom House, Cooktown, and do not include gold taken to Sydney and other places direct from the fields. The increase shown by the actual figures is an advance of £20,283 on the previous year. In computing the value of the gold exported, it has been reckoned at £3 10*s.* an ounce, which must be somewhat under its real value. The annual export of gold declared at the Customs has been :—

—	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Ounces	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value ... £	14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236

—	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	
Ounces	1,128	728	1,373	7,148	
Value ... £	3,906	2,565	4,735	25,018	

The second export in point of value was pearl-shell. The quantity of this article exported annually has been :—

—	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	15¾	12¼	3	18	37
Value ... £	1,510	1,050	85	542	1,623

—	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	
Tons	52	51	41	147½	
Value ... £	3,366	3,005	2,371	6,004	

Nearly the whole of this was obtained in the eastern waters of the Possession. From the western districts only a ton and a-half was got, almost the whole of the fishing-grounds there being still in the hands of Queensland. It is an industry that will doubtless be carried on successfully in the eastern waters.

The copra exported consisted of 440¼ tons, valued at £3,494. The export of this article has been :—

				£
1888 89	...	76 tons valued at	...	550
1889–90	...	43 „ „	...	250
1890–91	...	198 „ „	...	1,433
1891–92	...	340 „ „	...	2,084
1892–93	...	194 „ „	...	1,159
1893–94	...	450 „ „	...	2,885
1894–95	...	427 „ „	...	2,830
1895–96	...	381 „ „	...	2,748
1896–97	...	440 „ „	...	3,494

Next to copra comes india-rubber. This article figured first as an export in 1894–95, when some 2 cwt. of it, valued at £27, left the Colony. In 1895–96 the quantity entered outwards was nearly 3 tons ; this year it amounts to 16 tons, valued at £3,472. Taking into consideration the fact that this product is obtained from several indigenous trees and plants, that it exists over a great area, and that there is in the Colony a large extent of country that would appear to be eminently suitable for the cultivation of rubber-trees, it seems very probable that this may eventually become the principal export from the Possession.

There was a falling off of £1,712 in the declared value of sandal wood. Transactions in this industry have been as under :—

				£
1891–92	...	42 tons valued at	...	290
1892–93	...	899 „ „	...	7,183
1893–94	...	321 „ „	...	1,896
1894–95	...	378 „ „	...	2,568
1895–96	...	525 „ „	...	4,035
1896–97	...	300 „ „	...	2,323

It would appear that the decrease in sandal wood is more owing to the superior attractions of prospecting for gold than to exhaustion of the sandal wood forest. If so, there may be a revival in this industry next year.

The export of bêche-de-mer continues to show on the whole a downward tendency. Its course has been as under :—

—	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	38½	70¼	64¼	49	21¾
Value ... £	2,178	4,682	5,030	3,401	1,573

—	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	
Tons	28	21¼	17½	13	
Value ... £	1,714	1,087	929	1,016	

Pearls valued at £980, and turtle-shell declared at £519, were also exported. The remaining items do not call for any special notice.

The total volume of the trade of the Colony has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888–89	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889–90	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890–91	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891–92	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892–93	25,261	14,966	40,227
1893–94	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894–95	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895–96	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896–97	51,391	35,654	95,737

SHIPPING.

32. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the Colony was 85, representing

13,650 tons ; the total number cleared outwards for foreign ports was 65, of 15,174 tons. The total foreign tonnage has been :—

1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
28,824 tons ...	19,759 tons ...	28,824 tons

The entries inwards and outwards coastwise have been :—

	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
Vessels ...	107	333	595
Tons	5,133	7,845	20,676

The contract for the subsidised mail schooner came to an end during the year, and was discontinued.

Many of the smaller craft at work in the Possession are sailed exclusively by Papuans ; others have Papuan crews with a foreigner as master.

Postal.

33. The postal transactions for the year show, when compared with those of previous years, a decided increase. The following is a tabulated statement for the last nine years :—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Letters received ...	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079
Letters despatched ...	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011
Packets received ...	93	111	142	45	230
Packets despatched ...	98	84	88	78	427
Newspapers received...	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749
Newspapers despatched	574	590	468	756	276

Article.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
Letters received ...	6,280	6,279	7,130	11,148
Letters despatched ...	5,297	6,189	4,987	11,550
Packets received ...	157	129	246	181
Packets despatched ...	467	468	281	475
Newspapers received...	8,131	7,046	7,197	7,441
Newspapers despatched	240	776	828	1,635

FINANCE.

Revenue.

34. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £10,663. It is compared below with the revenues of previous years :—

Items.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs dues ...	2,416	2,893	2,525	4,428	3,757
Goldfield receipts ...	187	20	23	24	23
Fees	2	4	4	10	157
Fines	25	41	46	34	24
Licences	2	11	21	136	106
Miscellaneous... ...	42	44	53	149	535
Total ... £	2,679	3,015	2,673	4,783	4,604

Items.	1893-94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
	£	£	£	£
Customs dues ...	5,067	4,622	5,974	9,336
Goldfield receipts ...	54	26	78	262
Fees	115	78	21	448
Fines	22	27	37	51
Licences	317	247	293	246
Miscellaneous... ...	291	109	144	320
Total ... £	5,866	5,109	6,547	10,663

Expenditure.

35. The sum of £15,000 was appropriated for ordinary administrative purposes, in addition to a sum of £437 18*s.* 5*d.* for additional Government Agents, and £1,000 for surveys. The two latter amounts were authorised by the Guaranteeing Colonies

to be paid from the Accumulated Revenue Fund. The sum of £16,228 was actually expended for the usual administrative services in the manner indicated in the following table, in which it is classified and compared with the expenditure of previous years :—

Head of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries ...	2,663	3,300	3,290	3,300	3,300
Other salaries ...	1,796	2,381	3,476	3,559	3,707
Vessels and boats ...	2,747	2,564	2,938	2,993	1,600
Allowances	1,296	2,548	1,500	1,356	1,748
Buildings and Works	185	1,144	979	780	872
Agriculture	2	137	355	335	146
Mail services ...	445	—	—	—	450
Miscellaneous... ...	1,662	2,898	2,675	2,675	3,174
Total ... £	10,769	14,975	15,000	15,000	15,000

Head of Expenditure.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.
	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries ...	3,300	3,248	3,186	3,195
Other salaries ...	3,479	3,640	3,779	3,552
Vessels and boats ...	1,308	2,114	1,587	1,258
Allowances	1,454	1,614	1,388	2,061
Buildings and Works	435	397	661	754
Agriculture	203	145	142	94
Mail service	750	900	900	900
Miscellaneous... ...	4,071	2,942	3,357	4,414
Total ... £	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,228

S.S. "MERRIE ENGLAND."

36. The net expenditure on the "Merrie England" during the year ended on 31st March 1897 was £7,313 19*s.* 2*d.* The distance steamed was 16,250 miles on a consumption of 800 tons of coal, making an average distance of 20·31 knots for each ton of coal. The vessel was under steam on 180 days. On launch duty 68 tons of coal were used.

As in previous years since 1895–6, the Imperial Government contributed £3,000 towards the cost of maintaining the steamer, while the Guaranteeing Colonies allowed the sum of £4,000 to be charged to the Accumulated Revenue Fund.

37. The considerations on which expenditure was regulated are given in full in the despatch covering the estimates.* With regard to the sum of £1,228 19*s.* 10*d.* expended in excess of the appropriation of £15,000, it may be observed that the increased expenditure was due partly to the large influx of miners to the Possession which took place in 1897, and partly to the massacres on the Mambare River. The attention of the Guaranteeing Colonies was directed to the fact that certain additional expenditure, estimated at the time to amount to some hundreds of pounds, would be necessary, and their consent was obtained to the increase being made a charge against the Accumulated Revenue Fund.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.

38. An elaborate report* by Mr. De Vis will be found as an Appendix hereto, in which that gentleman gives a careful description of the many new and interesting birds added to the official collection of the Possession since the date of his previous paper on the same subject. Mr. De Vis is well entitled to the thanks of the Colony for so promptly giving to these matters so much labour, especially at a time when he is otherwise already overworked.

39. A report* is attached by Mr. J. B. Cameron, Government Surveyor, on lands surveyed by him for alienation to Europeans. It has been intended to dispose of this land on favourable terms, more with the object of introducing systematic cultivation of tropical products under European supervision than for any other purposes. Most of the 31,000 acres surveyed has been obtained by the Crown from the native owners by direct purchase.

---

* Not printed.

Mr. Cameron's report covers a few months not included within the year dealt with by this Annual Report, but circumstances make it convenient and desirable to publish it as it has been presented.

40. Mr. W. E. Buchanan has kindly furnished a report* on the results of the expedition led by him to the foot of the Main Range to the north-west of Mount Nesbit. Unfortunately Mr. Buchanan's instruments got damaged, so that the exact locality reached by him cannot be put on the map. He describes it as a large valley, in the deposits of which are traces of gold; but Mr. Buchanan, though an able leader and a skilful and persevering prospector, does not appear to have found payable gold.

METEOROLOGICAL.

41. The Rev. Copland King has furnished the table* of rainfall at Dogura Station for the year ending 31st December 1896. It shows a fall of only 43½ inches, though rain fell on 115 days. The figures would indicate that the dry season is from May to September, inclusive; while the three wettest months are January, February, and March. The rainfall of the same place from 1st February 1892 to 31st January 1893 was 80 inches, which gives an average for the two years of 61·75 inches.

At Port Moresby the rainfall for the year ending 30th June 1897 was 38·97 inches. No rain fell in December 1896, nor in June 1897. In January, February, March, and April, the rain registered measured 32·31 inches. The rainfall of the last three years has averaged 37 inches.

A table is attached* compiled from the observations taken at Port Moresby, which shows the average thermometer readings for each month of the year at 9 a.m.; and also the maximum and minimum temperatures for each month registered at the same place. From this it appears that the highest 9 o'clock temperature was that of January, 85·85 degrees Fah. The lowest was, for August, at 76·61 degrees; the average for the year was 81·92 degrees.

The highest monthly registration by the maximum thermometer was, for January, 89·28 degrees; the lowest by the same instrument was, for September, 80·46 degrees. The average maximum monthly temperature was, for the year, 85·44 degrees.

* Not printed.

The highest monthly readings by the minimum thermometer was, for February, 77·33 degrees; the lowest, for August, 72·89 degrees. The average monthly temperature by the minimum thermometer was 75·57 degrees.

The highest temperature registered at Port Moresby in the shade at 9 a.m. was 90 degrees, on the 6th January; the highest registered at any time was 94 degrees, on the 9th February. The lowest obtained was 74 degrees, on the 6th and 22nd August.

At Daru the rainfall for the year ending 30th June 1897 was 61·62 inches. The average for the last three years has been 82·5 inches. The fall in the months of September, October, and November, 1896, was less than 1 inch, while that for January, February, and March, 1897, was 10·74, 12·11, and 13·98 inches respectively. A table* will be found as Enclosure D to Appendix L, showing the highest and lowest thermometer readings for each month in the year, barometrical readings for the same periods, general direction of wind, &c. The highest average temperature was recorded in December (85·75 degrees), the lowest in September (79·76 degrees).

ESTABLISHMENTS.

42. On the 30th of June last the officers on the establishment, in addition to those on the Civil list, were as follows :—

Resident Magistrates :—

Central Division	Dr. J. A. Blayney.
Western Division	B. A. Hely.
Eastern Division	M. H. Moreton.
Louisiades	A. M. Campbell.

Government Agents :—

Rigo	A. E. English.
Mekeo	B. W. Bramell.
North-east Coast	M. W. Shanahan.
Travelling (temporary) ...	A. Giulianetti.
Commandant	Captain A. W. Butterworth.

* Not printed.

ESTABLISHMENTS—*continued.*

Government Storekeeper ...	H. N. Chester.
Treasurer and Collector ...	D. Ballantine.
Sub-Collector, Samarai ...	Alexander Henry Symonds.
Clerk, Samarai (temporary)...	A. McAlpine.
Sub-Collector, Daru... ...	H. W. de Lange.
Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works.	John McDonald.
Government Printer ...	J. G. Allen.
Commander, S.S. "Merrie England."	George A. H. Curtis, R.N.R.
First Engineer, "Merrie England."	F. V. Corkill.

The year was, beyond all precedent, unfortunate as regards the loss of officers.

On the 25th of November 1896, Mr. Charles Kowald, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, met with a most serious accident at a point on the Musa River some three score of miles from the sea. While Mr. Kowald was in the act of demonstrating to a native the use of dynamite, the cartridge exploded in his hand, and inflicted injuries of which Mr. Kowald died shortly after in the Cooktown Hospital. He had been employed by the Government from its first initiation. Though a foreigner by birth and education, he was a loyal officer, a man of unusual energy, resource, and activity. He built and created the Mekeo Station, and brought it to such a condition that the whole district was proud of it. The Mekeo Station was one of the most beautiful homes in this part of the world, and this was almost altogether the work of Mr. Kowald. He succeeded admirably in pacifying his populous and turbulent district, and made very considerable progress in road-making, while he practically put an end to village burial over a large area. He also visited many of the mountain tribes, and he held the balance evenly between rival missions while aiding them all alike. He had already gained a large experience, and been well trained to his duties as Government Agent. Manifestly, the loss of such a man to the service, of which he had made a profession, was very great.

On the 14th January 1897, Mr. John Green, Government Agent for the Mambare district and Assistant Magistrate, was attacked by a combination of the natives of the district and murdered, with four men of the armed constabulary, while three prisoners and a private servant were killed at the same time. Mr. Green and his men were engaged in constructing a new station on the Tamata affluent of the Mambare. They left the

old station in the morning and went to the new one, about which they were employed when attacked, unfortunately without their arms. These constables were all first-rate men, and the Commandant is of opinion that if they had even had knives with which to defend themselves they would probably be alive to-day. The conspiracy had been carefully prepared beforehand, and its execution was doubtless facilitated by the presence at the station of a Tamata man as a constable. Apparently, all the tribes near the station were implicated.

Mr. Green had a natural liking to work connected with native administration, for which he had a decided talent. He had already received a good training, which, added to his superior intelligence and unusual perseverance, promised great things. He had built the Mambare Station; and though located in the most remote and least amenable of the districts, he had made very considerable progress in acquainting the natives with the aims and objects of the Government. He had visited and established friendly relations with many tribes on the north-east coast, and had inspected the Mambare as far as Neneba and the top of the Owen Stanley Range. He was much respected by the prospectors and others that visited the district, interpreting correctly and carrying into effect, with tact and goodwill, the desire of the Government to render to those men every assistance possible. He was the only European that accompanied me the first time the Moni Valley of the Musa was reached, and he accompanied myself also to the top of Mount Victoria, being able to render excellent assistance in preparing geographical work, in which he was becoming an apt pupil. The loss of an officer so endowed and so well trained was a most deplorable one to the service. There was no position in it to which Mr. Green might not have aspired. It was further intensified by being associated with the murder at the same moment of the faithful, intelligent, and well-bred chief of his detachment of constabulary, Corporal Sedu, a native of Turituri, in the Western Division.

Mr. John Meredith head gaoler and overseer of works, died of illness at Sudest Island, where he was stationed on duty in charge of a body of some fifty prisoners at work in connection with a gold mining company opening up some auriferous quartz reefs. Mr. Meredith became head goaler in July 1894. He took a deep personal interest in each prisoner under his charge; and by firm, kind treatment maintained excellent discipline, while by regular work, regular hours, and the use of the English language, he imparted to the prisoners a useful and valuable education. He maintained them in good physical condition, clean skinned, and as contented as men in such circumstances could be.

The Commandant was absent, on leave, from February to the end of June.

GENERAL.

43. The usual assistance so courteously rendered by the Government of Queensland in former years to the Possession was again repeated in the refitting of the "Merrie England," and in other ways.

The year was one of specially hard work to the whole of the Civil Service in the Possession, the zeal and assiduity of which deserve my warmest thanks and acknowledgment.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency
The Right Ron. Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Queensland.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 258.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896–7, *see* No. 237.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

April, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1–3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046–26.] *Price* 4½*d.*

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

No. 1.

Governor LORD LAMINGTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received January 30th, 1899.)

[*Copy sent to Sir Wm. Macgregor* 11*th March* 1899.]

Government House, Brisbane,
24th December 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward you a copy of Sir William Macgregor's Annual Report from 1st July 1897 to 30th June 1898, also a copy of a letter from the Honourable The Chief Secretary acknowledging its receipt.

It is a matter of peculiar satisfaction to me to transmit on the part of my Government a statement containing so warm a recognition of the success attendant upon the ten years of Sir William Macgregor's administration in British New Guinea, and of the harmonious relations that have prevailed between them and the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have so repeatedly expressed my admiration of Sir William Macgregor's single-mindedness, discretion, zeal and courage, that it is enough for me on this occasion to say that I most fully and heartily endorse the opinions set forth in my Chief Secretary's letter. Yet I may add, that having had an opportunity of visiting the Possession, these views of his government are more than substantiated by the actual results achieved. The gradations of good order and peaceful bearing amongst the tribes as successively brought under authority were most marked.

This civilizing process has been due mainly to the prestige that Sir William Macgregor has established for himself by his love of justice and firmness, and not by drastic or extreme measures.

These remarks apply not merely to the coastal but to tribes living in the interior of a country where the mere fact of travelling is surrounded with the most serious difficulties.

When it is remembered with what small resources and in how short a time this work has been accomplished the task and success of Sir William Macgregor's administration will bear comparison with any kindred undertaking within the Empire.

It only remains for me to record my personal regrets in losing as Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea one who was always anxious that the machinery of a somewhat complex system of Government should run with all possible ease.

I have, &c.,

LAMINGTON.

[Enclosure in No. 1.]

Chief Secretary's Office,
Brisbane,
21st December 1898.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from Your Excellency of Sir William Macgregor's Annual Report on British New Guinea from 1st July 1897 to 30th June 1898, and to inform Your Excellency that the usual action has been taken with regard to the Report.

As this closes the long series of Reports, annual and occasional, on British New Guinea, furnished to Your Excellency's predecessors and Yourself by Sir William Macgregor, I take the opportunity of expressing on behalf of the Government their great regret that the Possession can no longer enjoy the advantage of his able administration. During the ten years of his government they have observed with appreciative interest the steady progress of an experiment in the education of a barbarous people which they consider unique in the history of civilization, and the success of which has been mainly owing to the rare qualities of mind and character that so admirably fitted him for the position he has filled during that period. To Sir William Macgregor has been assigned the exceptional task of in a large measure creating the institutions it was his function to administer, institutions which could only be established after long and trying labour in the direction of pacification, and the orderly condition of the communities in the large area of the Possession which has been

2231*—75—3/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (R)

brought under the operation of his policy is due not only to his immense faculty of organization, but to the personal courage and indomitable energy which gained for him his extraordinary ascendancy over the native mind.

The Government, moreover, do not fail to recognise how largely the results of Sir William Macgregor's exploring expeditions and scientific investigations have added to the measure of his achievement, and they feel assured that the series of Reports which has now closed will be regarded, especially by anthropologists and sociologists, as among the most valuable contributions which have been added to scientific literature during the period over which they extend.

I desire to reciprocate the sentiments expressed by Sir William Macgregor with regard to the harmonious relations which have existed between himself and the Government of this Colony, and will only add that, if this Government have been able to discharge to the satisfaction of the Imperial Government and the other Contributing Colonies the obligation undertaken by Queensland with respect to British New Guinea, it has been largely owing to the fact that they were in co-operation with an Administrator whose single aim was to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Possession for whose good government they had made themselves responsible.

I have, &c.,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

No. 2.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to Governor LORD LAMINGTON.

[*Copy sent to Sir William Macgregor*, 11*th March* 1899.]

Downing Street,

8th March 1899.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th of December forwarding copies of the Annual Report on British New Guinea for 1897–8, together with copy of

a letter from your Prime Minister, in which he bears eloquent testimony to the valuable services rendered by Sir Wm. Macgregor during his ten years' service in the administration of that Possession.

2. I fully and cordially endorse what is said by Mr. Dickson and yourself in appreciation of Sir William Macgregor's work, and of the rare combination of qualities he has displayed in its discharge.

3. The constant support and ready assistance which he has at all times met with at the hands of those responsible for the government of Queensland has done much to facilitate his task, and I have pleasure in placing on record my high appreciation of the manner in which the Government of the Colony has throughout performed the duties of control assigned to it by the Agreement of 1887.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

INDEX.

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	Preliminary	9
	LEGISLATION.	
1.	Ordinance No. VI. of 1897 passed to Regulate Collecting of Wild Birds	9
2.	Ordinance No. VII. of 1897 Appropriates Sums Required for 1897–8	10
3.	Ordinance No. VIII. of 1897 Amends Native Labour Ordinances	10
4.	Ordinance No. IX. of 1897 Extends to Native Servants employed by Crown provisions applicable to those in private employ	11
5.	Ordinance No. X. of 1897 Repeals Arms Licenses Ordinance of 1897	11
6.	Ordinance No. 1 of 1898 passed to enable certain Persons to acquire Crown Lands not exceeding 250,000 acres	11
7.	Proclamations having Force of Law	12
8.	Regulations passed by Native Regulation Board ...	12
9.	General Remarks relating to Legislation passed during last Decade	12
	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.	
10.	Particulars of Matters dealt with Judicially	13
11.	Capital Sentences passed during the year	19
12.	Remarks on Administration of Justice during past Ten Years	20
13.	Satisfactory manner in which Natives are falling into the use of Courts of Law	21
	VISITS OF INSPECTION.	
14.	Visit extending from Port Moresby to head of Wowea Valley...	21
15.	Measures adopted for Pacification of Tribes in Goldie River District	22
16.	Expedition undertaken to Relieve Prospectors Besieged by Goromani Tribe	24
17.	Descent upon Goromani Villages and Chastisement of the Tribe	25
18.	Journey across the Island to the Mambare River ...	26
19.	Visit by Deputy Administrator to Mekeo District ...	27
20.	Inspection Tour of Coast lying West of Daru Station	28
21.	Journey from Port Moresby to the Brown River ...	30
22.	Visit of Lord Lamington and Sir H. M. Nelson ...	30
23.	Visit to Government Station on Mambare River ...	31

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	VISITS OF INSPECTION—*continued.*	
24.	Inspection of Mission Station at Tubetube, and Visit to various other Places in North-Eastern District	31
25.	Condition of Affairs on the Mambare; Visit to Anglican Mission at Dogura and to Rigo Government Station	31
26.	Visit of Inspection to Brown River Road	32
27.	Visit by Chief Judicial Officer to Mambare Station...	32
	REPORTS BY OFFICERS.	
28.	Report of the Resident Magistrate for the South-Eastern Division	33
29.	General Remarks on South-Eastern Division ...	34
30.	Report of the Government Agent for the Mambare District	35
31.	Historical Sketch of the Mambare District and Remarks on the Boundary Question	35
32.	Report of the Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division...	37
33.	Inadequacy of Magisterial Establishment for Eastern Division...	37
34.	Report of the Resident Magistrate for the Central Division...	39
35.	Report of the Government Agent for the Rigo District	40
36.	Progress made with Natives in Central Division ...	40
37.	Report of the Resident Magistrate for the Western Division...	41
38.	General Remarks on the Western Division	42
39.	Report of the Commandant of Armed Constabulary	43
40.	General Remarks on the Constabulary	43
41.	Creation of Body of Village Policemen	45
42.	Progressive Employment of Natives during past Decade	45
43.	Report of the Overseer of Works	46
44.	Report of the Head Gaoler	46
45.	Good Service rendered by successive Head Gaolers; Work performed by Prisoners	47
	MISSION WORK.	
46.	Dates of Establishment of various Missions	48
47.	Work performed by the London Missionary Society	48
48.	Remarks on Progress made by Sacred Heart Mission	50
49.	Services rendered by Wesleyan Mission	51
50.	Remarks on Anglican Mission	53
51.	Lady Workers in the Missions	53
52.	Gratification of Government that during its existence no Missionary has met death by violence; importance and value of Mission Work generally ...	55
	METEOROLOGICAL.	
53.	Rainfall at Dogura, Port Moresby, and Daru ...	56
54.	Temperature at Dogura, Port Moresby, and Daru ...	57

Section.	Subject.	Page.
	SANITARY.	
55.	Remarks on Climate and on Diseases existing in the Possession	58
56.	Regimen to be followed by Europeans	61
	GOVERNMENT VESSELS.	
57.	Distance Travelled by "Merrie England" during Year; condition of Vessel	61
58.	Remarks on other Vessels possessed by the Government	62
	TRADE.	
59.	Total Value of Trade for the Year and for the Decade	62
60.	Imports	63
61.	Exports	65
62.	Shipping	68
63.	Postal	69
	FINANCE.	
64.	Revenue	70
65.	Expenditure	72
	LAND AND LAND CLAIMS.	
66.	Remarks on Crown Grants issued during past Ten Years	74
	SCIENTIFIC.	
67.	Description of New Species of Fossil	75
68.	Remarks on Totemism	75
69.	Note by Dr. Fison on Totemism in Fiji	76
70.	Geological Specimens	76
71.	Botanical Collections	76
72.	Preparation of New Map of Possession: Proposed Revision of Boundary Between British New Guinea and Queensland	76
	GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.	
73.	Estimate of Value of Government Property... ...	77
	PRESENT POSITION AND PROSPECTS.	
74.	Critical Stage in Existence of the Colony, and General Remarks on Extension of Authority of Government, on future Development and on Industries... ...	77
	ESTABLISHMENTS.	
75.	List of Officers at end of Ten Years' Period... ...	80
76.	Losses by Death during the Decade	81
	ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND.	
77.	Assistance rendered by Successive Prime Ministers of Queensland, and various Government Officers of that Colony	82
78.	Thanks due to His Excellency Lord Lamington ...	83

No. 258.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR to GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON.

Brisbane,

27th October 1898.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Tenth Annual Report on British New Guinea, as required by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions of 8th June, 1888. The different tables, the accounts of Revenue and Expenditure, refer to the year ending on the 30th June last. The Reports on administrative visits of inspection are continued up to the time at which I left the Possession.

LEGISLATION.

1. ORDINANCE NO. VI. of 1897 was passed to regulate the collecting of wild birds. In 1894 it had become apparent that it was necessary to legislate for the protection of certain rare birds confined to limited localities, and also to forbid the shooting of all birds, save only birds of prey, at certain places. These powers were conferred on the Executive by Ordinance No. II. of 1894. Under the provisions of this enactment, birds were protected on the islands of Daru and Samarai, and in the vicinity of Port Moresby. Two species of rare birds of the Paradise family, found only in the D'Entrecasteaux group in one case, and in that and the Kiriwina Islands in the other case, were absolutely prohibited to the collector, there being plenty of examples already in museums for all scientific purposes. Two other species of birds, of the Gallinaceous family, that were being killed out, and whose eggs are valuable as food, were also protected within ten miles of the sea.

In 1897 it was felt that some further restriction should be put on the bird collector. It is impossible to regard this occupation as an industry worthy of encouragement. Formerly the collector had to incur danger where now he is perfectly safe. He had, some years ago, to cut his own track, to find his own way, and it

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897-8.

was difficult to obtain native assistants. Now he generally follows up tracks cut by Government; he can employ native assistants almost anywhere; and can thus shoot down the birds of a district in a short time. Ordinance No. VI. of 1897 imposes on the collector a license of £5, and a license of £1 for each shooting assistant. It does not appear that this license has any effect in diminishing the number of collectors. It will soon be necessary to proceed a step further and to limit the number of birds of certain species that any collector may kill under his license, for it would be a great mistake to suppose that birds of Paradise are plentiful in the Possession. Only two species are common; some are confined to certain altitudes, others to a few small isolated spots that lie far apart. It would be easy to reduce some kinds to practical extermination, a matter that should not be left till it is too late. It may be, however, that when other forms of employment are provided the number of collectors may be less.

2. ORDINANCE No. VII. of 1897 appropriates the sums required for the ordinary administrative services for the year ending with the 30th June, 1898, and for the s.s. "Merrie England" for the year ending with the 31st March, 1898.

3. ORDINANCE No. VIII. of 1897 amends the "Native Labour Ordinance of 1892" in certain particulars.

The first legislation affecting the employment of native labourers was Ordinance No. III. of 1888. This was passed in compliance with the command contained in Section XIII. of the Letters Patent of 8th June, 1888. This directs that a law be established providing "That no deportation of natives be allowed either from one part of the Possession to another, or to any place beyond the Possession." It was thought in 1892 that the time had then come when this stringent measure could with advantage to the native and to those wishing to employ him be relaxed. Ordinance No. II. of 1892 accordingly allowed natives to be employed by oral agreements for periods not exceeding one month at a distance not more than twenty-five miles from the usual place of residence of the native. Engagements before a magistrate were permitted for any term not exceeding one year. There was no further restriction of the native to his own district. The native could also be engaged to work in Torres Straits, and could be taken to Cooktown or Thursday Island; and, for educational purposes, a native could be removed by any one of the mission bodies to any island north of the 10th degree of S. latitude. Ordinance No. III. of 1893 provided that a native might be imprisoned for not entering on a service he had agreed to, or for deserting.

ORDINANCE No. II. of 1897 further modified the law as to the engagement of labourers, allowing natives to be engaged before any person qualified to deal with labour contracts. Under this

it became possible to engage any native of the south coast of the colony before any magistrate or qualified officer in that district. The same law also rendered it compulsory on a native to perform the work for which he may be duly engaged.

ORDINANCE No. VIII. of 1897 provides that a deserting labourer may be returned to his employer, and renders it a punishable offence to induce a native to desert.

ORDINANCE No. II. of 1898 permits natives to proceed, under a bond by the employer, if the latter has a *bonâ fide* residence or place of business in the Possession, to any Australian port, and to certain other places. Natives could also accompany any missionary for literary purposes to any part of Australia. This Ordinance has now been assented to by Her Majesty. It will thus be seen that the labour laws of the Possession have been developed gradually, suitably to the evolution of the colony and the control established over natives. The engagement of natives as labourers is therefore now sufficiently free, but it may soon be desirable to extend the term for which a native may be engaged to more than twelve months. This is becoming specially necessary for youths that may become engaged as apprentices to carpenters and others. An opportunity for doing this will present itself when the codification of the labour laws, already directed by the Secretary of State, is effected.

4. ORDINANCE No. IX. of 1897 extends generally to native servants employed by the Crown provisions analogous to those applicable to native servants in the employment of private employers.

5. ORDINANCE No. X. of 1897 repeals "The Arms Licenses Ordinance of 1897." This latter measure imposed a license on firearms, a tax which, theoretically, was thoroughly justifiable in a country where much game is killed without there being any game license. It was, however, obnoxious to people unaccustomed to such an impost in Queensland. It was deemed inadvisable to maintain an enactment that was clearly unpopular to a large degree, and that, too, without producing any very considerable advantage to the Treasury.

6. ORDINANCE No. I. of 1898 was passed "to enable certain persons to acquire and occupy Crown lands not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto."

Exception has been taken to this measure by the Prime Ministers of three of the contributing colonies—viz., Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. These are fully set forth in the papers attached hereto*, and have been considered in my Despatch of 1898, included in the same correspondence. To the original Ordinance certain amendments have to be made by direction of the Secretary of State. But these amendments

* Not reprinted here

have not yet been made, and Her Majesty's pleasure with regard to the Ordinance has not at this date been intimated to the Administrator.

7. On the 7th July 1897 the Foreign Enlistment Act was brought into validity in the Possession by Proclamation; and by a further Proclamation certain rules were brought into force affecting ships of war of Spain and of the United States of America, when belligerents.

By a Proclamation issued on the 6th July, 1898, an absolute prohibition was, in consequence of the further spread of the "tick disease" in Queensland, imposed on the importation of cattle, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats, poultry, and other animals from that colony into British New Guinea.

On the 5th July, 1898, a gold field was declared in the Mambare district under the Gold Fields Act. At the same time a warden's court was established for this field, known as the Gira Gold Field. By a Proclamation issued on the 25th day of July, 1898, the Murua Gold Field is declared to be a new gold field within the meaning of "The Gold Fields Act Amendment Act of 1878" (Queensland adopted) till the 6th November, 1903. The purport of this is that till that date the Murua Gold Field will not be open to Asiatics.

8. Two Regulations were passed by the Native Regulation Board. No. II. of 1897 makes pandering "a forbidden act," and punishable. This Regulation was very necessary in certain parts of the colony, where it was quite customary for parents to wrong their children in this way. Other relatives also made a traffic in this. It seems that the Regulation has already been useful in dealing with this matter.

REGULATION NO. III. of 1897, having reference to schools, was passed after long and careful consideration. It was referred for observations to each of the four missions in the colony, and was finally passed in a form that corresponded as nearly as possible with their recommendations. It is purely tentative, and of a permissive character. The Regulation is brought into force in any village only after the European magistrate of the district has received the written consent of the European missionary to do so. Missionaries may thus use it or not as they choose. The complaint against the parent for not sending the child to school is to be laid by the teacher. The teacher of the school and the magistrate determine the number of days a week that the children of a village shall attend school. This Regulation is being very gradually brought into force. The threat to act on it seems to be, in many cases, sufficient.

9. During the decade now past, the general tendency of legislation in the Possession has been, in those cases where it was possible to do so, to frame the laws of the colony, as near as

circumstances would permit, on the corresponding laws of Queensland. This seemed desirable, mainly on two grounds: the almost certain close political relationship of British New Guinea to the future Federated Australia, the nearest member of which is Queensland; and the fact that the majority of people that engage in mining and fishing pursuits in the Possession are already conversant with the law of Queensland. In all main particulars the fishing laws of the two colonies are the same on the two sides of the line that separates Queensland from British New Guinea.

The same is true with regard to mining. The Gold Fields Act of Queensland is the fundamental mining law of the Possession. The principal difference between them is that British New Guinea cannot, from the want of funds, offer any pecuniary reward for discoveries of payable gold. It has been sought to meet this, as far as possible, by extending the area of a reward claim. It has been the desire of the Government of the Possession to liberalise the mining laws by increasing facilities to miners and by reducing certain restrictions and limitations. A draft Ordinance prepared for this purpose was submitted for Your Excellency's consideration some time ago; but in the meantime action thereon is suspended until the Mining Bill of Queensland becomes law, in order that the mining law of the Possession may be fashioned as far as possible in conformity with it.

The laws affecting land in the Possession are widely different in certain details from those of Queensland, as the circumstances and geographical position of the two colonies require.

With only two or three exceptions all Ordinances have been drafted by the Government of the Possession. All have been duly submitted to the Governor of Queensland, and, I believe, each draft has been examined by the Law Officers of that colony. Many unimportant verbal alterations have in this way been made in the drafts; but it has been rare to make any changes of principle. Suggestions of great importance, besides careful revision, were made in respect of some of the most important Ordinances by the late Sir Charles Lilley and by Sir Samuel Griffith. No Ordinance has been passed without the sanction of the Governor of Queensland.

The same routine has been followed in the case of the Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board. These are as brief and as simple in many cases as it is possible to make them.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

10. The tables of cases below, dealt with by the courts of the colony during the year ending the 30th June last, have been compiled by His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898.

CENTRAL COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how disposed of.
23	Central District	20 tried. 1 committal quashed. 2 discharged.
24	Eastern District	21 tried. 1 discharged. 2 awaiting trial.
7	Western District	6 tried. 1 discharged.
Total ... 54		

The Court held sixteen Criminal Sessions at the places and times, and with the results, undermentioned :—

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Trobriand Islands—7th July, 1897.		
1	Murder	Guilty of manslaughter.	One year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—30th September, 1897.		
2	1 larceny, 1 assault	1 guilty of larceny, 1 guilty of assault.	1 one year's, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—12th and 13th October, 1897.		
2	1 murder, 1 larceny	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of larceny.	1 fined £5, 1 two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Port Moresby—3*rd December*, 1897.		
4	4 murder	4 guilty of murder	4 death.
	Port Moresby—11*th December*, 1897.		
3	2 murder, 1 causing grievous bodily harm.	2 not guilty, 1 guilty of causing grievous bodily harm.	1 five years' penal servitude.
	Mekeo—17*th December*, 1897.		
3	3 murder	2 not guilty, 1 discharged.	
	Port Moresby—21*st January*, 1898.		
3	3 murder	1 guilty, 2 not guilty	1 death.
	Rigo—1*st February*, 1898.		
6	6 larceny	6 guilty	6 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—10*th February*, 1898.		
1	1 murder	1 guilty	1 death.
	Port Moresby—25*th February*, 1898.		
1	1 arson	1 guilty	1 one years' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Port Moresby—16*th March*, 1898.		
1	1 conspiring to murder.	1 guilty	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Daru—22*nd March to* 4*th April*, 1898.		
7	3 murder, 3 indecent assault, 1 wounding.	1 not guilty murder, 2 guilty manslaughter, 3 guilty indecent assault, 1 guilty wounding.	4 two years', 1 eighteen months', and 1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	Samarai—3*rd and* 4*th May*, 1898.		
13	7 murder, 2 larceny, 1 assault, 3 desecration of sepulture.	5 guilty, 2 not guilty murder, 1 guilty assault, 2 guilty larceny, 3 guilty desecration of sepulture.	5 death, 1 fined £4, 2 one year's imprisonment with hard labour, 3 four months imprisonment with hard labour.

Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	Samarai—27th to 31st May, 1898.		
2	1 murder, 1 assault	1 not guilty, 1 guilty assault.	1 fined £5.
	Wamea Island—16th June, 1898.		
1	1 assault	1 guilty assault ...	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
	Hughes Bay—20th June, 1898.		
1	1 wounding... ...	1 guilty	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
Total 51			

Civil Business.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
—	Nil.

Courts of Petty Sessions.

Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	37	19 murder ... ... 1 manslaughter ... 8 sedition ... ... 2 arson ... ... 6 larceny ... ... 1 aiding prisoner to escape.	23 committed. 14 discharged.
Eastern District	42	27 murder ... ... 4 larceny ... ... 4 assault ... ... 2 attempt to murder 3 desecration of sepulture. 2 wounding ...	24 committed. 18 discharged.
Western District	7	2 murder ... ... 5 rape	7 committed.
Total ...	86		

Summary Offences Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	67	26 larceny	18 convicted, 8 discharged.
		20 assault	13 convicted, 7 discharged.
		5 breach of Constabulary Ordinance.	4 convicted, 1 discharged.
		9 breach of Labour Ordinance.	6 convicted, 3 discharged.
		6 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	4 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	1 discharged.
Eastern District	66	22 larceny	21 convicted, 1 discharged.
		9 assault	9 convicted.
		1 breach of Prisons Ordinance.	1 convicted.
		1 drunk and disorderly.	1 convicted.
		1 insulting language	1 discharged.
		1 breach of Merchant Shipping Acts.	1 discharged.
		27 breach of Labour Ordinance.	27 convicted.
		3 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	3 discharged.
		1 breach of Pearl-shell Ordinance.	1 discharged.
Western District	20	11 assault	9 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 larceny	1 convicted.
		7 breach of Labour Ordinance.	7 convicted.
		1 illegal trespass ...	1 convicted.
Total ...	153		

Civil Jurisdiction.

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	2	2 debt	2 verdict for plaintiff.
Eastern District	14	14 debt	6 verdict for plaintiff.
			8 settled out of court.
Western District	1	Debt	Verdict for plaintiff.
Total ...	17		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	164	24 assault	23 convicted, 1 discharged.
		54 larceny	50 convicted, 4 discharged.
		23 disobeying magistrates' orders.	23 convicted.
		10 breach of Roads Regulation.	10 convicted.
		4 breach of Carriers Regulation.	4 convicted.
		29 sorcery	19 convicted, 10 discharged.
		5 spreading lying reports.	3 convicted, 2 discharged.
		5 breach of Burials Regulation.	5 convicted.
		3 threatening language.	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		5 adultery... ...	3 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
		1 breach of "Pandering" Regulation.	1 convicted.
No. 3 (Eastern)	30	18 adultery ...	17 convicted, 1 discharged.
		2 spreading lying reports.	1 convicted, 1 discharged.
		9 sorcery	9 convicted.
		1 cutting down cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
No. 1 (Western)	46	25 adultery... ...	23 convicted, 2 discharged
		14 assault	13 convicted, 1 discharged
		2 breach of Burials Regulation.	2 convicted.
		2 sorcery	2 convicted.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
		1 insulting language	1 discharged.
		1 theft	1 convicted.
Total ...	240		

Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Action.
No. 2 (Central)	4	2 labour performed	2 verdict for plaintiff.
		2 debt	2 verdict for defendant.
No. 3 (Eastern)	—		
No. 1 (Western)	—		
Total ...	4		

Total Number of Criminal Proceedings.

In Central Court	54
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 54 cases sent up to Central Court) ...	185
In Native Magistrates' Courts	240
In all Courts	479

Total Number of Civil Proceedings.

In Central Court	—
In Courts of Petty Sessions	17
In Native Magistrates' Courts	4
In all Courts	21

11. During the year eleven persons, all of them aboriginals were sentenced to undergo capital punishment.

Five men of the village of Dabunare, in November, 1897, attacked and killed two men of the neighbouring village of Wabunare. These villages are situated in the Astrolabe Range, at no great distance from Port Moresby. The inhabitants of these small hill villages seldom go far from home, and are hence rather primitive in their ideas. The murder was committed to avenge the killing many years ago of some Dabunare people by the Wabunare villagers. The old chief of Dabunare had treasured up this wrong, and had persuaded the younger men to join him in exacting retribution for it. The aggressors' village was promptly surrounded by contingents from the nearest coast villages under their village policemen, and all the culprits were arrested and brought up to Port Moresby. The sentences in these cases were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

Three natives of the village of Radawa, in Goodenough Bay, were convicted of killing a lad from the hill village of Kwamana, which is not far from Radawa. Their excuse was that the boy was caught stealing from their gardens, a very serious offence in the eyes of the natives. A few years ago the people of these two villages were at open enmity with each other, and it is probable that this partly led to the youth being killed. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

A man of Basilaki Island was sentenced to death for killing an old woman of the same village. She was a reputed witch. He came to the conclusion that she had by sorcery killed a friend of his, so he destroyed her. There was the same commutation in this case.

A man from Wedau, Bartle Bay, killed a woman of the same place for witchcraft. He believed that she had killed his brother. He was dealt with similarly to the preceding cases.

12. Mr. Winter has, at my request, prepared a memorandum on the administration of justice during the ten years now passed. This will be found of much interest, and is attached hereto as Appendix J.*

From this memorandum it will be seen that during the above period 128 persons out of 195 accused have been convicted of murder.

It is a matter of great and profound satisfaction that not one of these convicts was a European. It will be remembered that by an Order of the Queen in Council, dated 17th May, 1888, there is conferred upon the Supreme Court of the Colony of Queensland an appellate jurisdiction by which the court can deal with any case arising in British New Guinea in which a sentence exceeding three months has been imposed. During the ten years no appeal has been made from the courts of the Possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland. The total exemption of Europeans from this category of criminals supplies the best proof that could be adduced that the general character of the Europeans in the country has been good. It may be doubted that any place of the same area, of like importance as to population, and in nearly the same social conditions, could show a similar record. One thing is clear : none could show a better in this important particular. It is probably in no small degree owing to the fact that Europeans have been in the habit of leaving the punishment of aggression by natives to the Government. It is tolerably certain they would not have done so very long had the Government not fairly well performed its duty in this matter. There have been minor charges, even charges of homicide, against a few Europeans, but, if foreigners are excluded, these have been very surprisingly few. It is a strange fact, and one for sincere congratulation, that the number of

* Not printed.

offences committed by Europeans during the ten years has, in such a remote country, with such a slender staff of officers, and in the face of a great population emerging from an early stage of barbarism, been so few and so unimportant. It is in some measure owing to the steady and honourable conduct of many of the old miners, men that are more or less domesticated in the colony. They have all along been men of a stamp greatly superior to the average old trader, that is speaking generally, for the old traders, especially the foreign element in it, have not been good examples of white men in the presence of a barbarous population. No reproach can be made against the few settlers there are. Their presence and influence have always been advantageous.

13. Due regard being had to the customs of the natives, their innate proneness to commit retaliatory crimes, and the grossness and universality of the superstitions by which they have been weighed down, there is good reason to be satisfied with the quiet way in which they are falling into the use of courts, and begin to understand them. Naturally very great patience is required on the part of a judicial officer in dealing with native cases, more especially until the natives of a given district begin to understand something of the impersonal nature of a court, and learn to see that it seeks out the real and actual culprit and discharges the innocent. The colony has been very fortunate in this respect as regards its judicial officers. In many cases it can be seen that the audience take a keen interest in a case before the court, and that they debate among themselves the points at issue.

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

14. A visit of inspection was begun on the 2nd August, which extended from Port Moresby as far as the head of the Wowea Valley in the Owen Stanley Range. The object in view was to impress on certain inland aggressive and powerful tribes the superior force of the Government, and to see whether a track could be found or made over the lowest part of the Owen Stanley Range.

This part of the country had long been well known as far as Sogeri. The London Missionary Society had a station there as early as 1881, and this place had been visited even by Mrs. Lawes, the wife of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, in 1882.

It had been explored and mapped by Mr. W. E. Armit in 1882. His sketch maps have been rescued from oblivion only after some trouble. They will be found attached hereto,* and cannot fail to be of considerable historical interest.

The late Mr. Andrew Goldie had collected on the stream that bears his name, in 1879 and 1880. Mr. G. E. Morrison had led an expedition into the Goldie district, and had been

* Not reproduced.

repulsed after receiving a serious wound. The celebrated German naturalist, Dr. Otto Finsch, had collected there without having any trouble. The Rev. James Chalmers had travelled in the same district. Dr. H. O. Forbes, at a later date, had a collecting camp for nearly half a year at Sogeri ; and Dr. Loria had more recently made large collections there.

Many prospectors had examined the Goldie district in 1878, and some of them had reached and crossed the Brown River, which was named after a prospector of that name who was drowned in this stream. Sogeri was also visited by the late Sir Peter Scratchley, and by many others not mentioned here.

Of all travellers that had visited this part of the country the one that seems to have got furthest inland was Mr. George Belford, who has never published any account of what he has done, though he has kept a diary. It is now established that in 1887 he crossed from Sogeri to Eaha on the Naoro (Brown), some half-score of miles further inland than Ginianumu, the furthest point reached a few months later by the expedition sent by the Protectorate Government under the leadership of Dr. Henry O. Forbes to explore the Owen Stanley Range.

15. The tribes it was now sought to reduce to submission had wounded and driven back Mr. Morrison. They had chased the expedition of the Protectorate out of the district and secured large booty, to them immense riches. This made them think themselves invincible. It was quite well known in 1896 that the district was unsafe, when a private party, in which was the experienced traveller Mr. F. A. Rochfort, tried to cross it. It should be mentioned that Mr. Rochfort was not the leader, and that consequently he, not having control, was not responsible for the manner in which this expedition was conducted. They safely reached Ginianumu, the spot from which, as declared by the natives to Mr. Ballantine on 22nd December, 1896, the Protectorate expedition under Dr. Forbes was turned back and routed. There also this private party was stopped, and had, like the Protectorate expedition, to abandon much property ; but, less fortunate than the latter, they lost one of their party from a spear wound, which still further emboldened these arrogant tribes. Mr. Ballantine had visited Baura before I went thither, and he had practically reduced the Uberi tribe to peace, but only after some conflict. At Sogeri all the principal men of the district were received by me—the so-called chiefs, the village policemen, and a great many more. Carriers were provided for us, and food was brought to our quarters in profuse abundance.

Next day, accompanied by the great men of the several tribes, we camped near the then residence of the Uberi, who had, however, not yet rebuilt their villages. Their pacification by this visit was made complete, and they furnished food and carriers. Two camps were made between the Uberi and Wamai on the

Brown, each on old village sites, but not a village or new garden was seen between those two places. The country between them is hilly, almost all covered by forest, and a good deal of the soil is rather rich, probably suitable for growing tea and coffee.

As it had been affirmed that the Wamai tribe had recently in conjunction with Baura attacked their neighbours of Uberi, and as they had appeared hostile to Mr. Ballantine's party, they were not regarded by us as friendly. They had abandoned their houses, and were living in "the bush." Their camp was discovered and "rushed." From a prisoner it was ascertained that the Wamai tribe was only afraid, and had not been actively hostile. Peace was established with them the same day, and before next day this had been extended to the neighbouring tribe of Eaha, which lies further up the Naoro. There is a considerable population, and much good forest land on this part of the river. We travelled down the left side of the Brown for half-a-dozen miles till opposite Ginianumu, passing over much rich soil, quite unoccupied. On the Ginianumu hill were several old village sites, but no traces of recent occupation. The Baura villages were occupied only by some of the young warriors of the tribe; the other inhabitants were all in the woods near. They had immense food gardens. The soil of the Baura hills, though the ground is generally steep, seems to be everywhere rich. The Baura men would not face the constabulary, and made it understood that they did not really wish to fight the Government. They made some attempt at conciliation, but nothing satisfactory came of this. The chiefs from the Naoro and Upper Goldie remained with us camped in the Baura villages and eating the food of the Baura people for a week, while detachments of constabulary and natives patrolled the country in every direction; but here, as is so often the case elsewhere, it was not possible to make any arrests of any importance without the assistance of local natives. The district seemed to be a perfectly healthy one. The temperature went down to 60 degrees Fah. at night, and rose to 85 during the day.

On the 19th August we started for Hagari, on one of the spurs of Mount Service, a place we reached on the second day by a circuitous route, the country between it and Baura being practically impassable to carriers. We had to bridge and then to ford the Naoro, and on the second day to cross the Ruguoa branch before we began to ascend the Hagari spur. There were large food gardens there, but no visible natives. Smoke was seen at many points in the deep glens of the Ruguoa and the Wowea, between us and the main range. The natives of these glens remained aloof, and declared it to be their intention to have nothing to do with us. They were not willing to accept even presents. It was learned that Hagari had been visited once by the commandant and the constabulary, after this tribe had made an attack on certain natives of the Vanapa. On that occasion the constabulary did not know where they were, having reached

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

Hagari under the conduct of guides from the Vanapa. It now appears that one Hagari man was then shot, and another who had been induced to approach to receive a present was made a prisoner and afterwards died in prison.

This unfortunate combination of circumstances had no doubt much to do with the attitude of the Hagari, Ruguoa, and Wowea tribes towards us. Matters were made worse by the fact that none of us, not even our followers from the Naoro, could understand much of what these people said. When they could get a chance they were ready to throw a spear from under cover at any one passing. The Wowea valley was ascended to within three miles of "the Gap" in the Owen Stanley Range. This, the lowest part of the chain, does not exceed 7,000 feet in altitude. From Hagari to the head of the Wowea there is plenty of pasture grass; the paths are good save at a few places where the pick and shovel would be required to open the road for pack animals.

Two parties were left in the district: one was sent up Mount Service to stay for some time behind the Hagari natives, and to collect there. The other was placed at Baura. Later on Mr. Ballantine, accompanied by Mr. Rochfort, visited the district, going to the villages of Eaha on the Naora and Agi on the Upper Wáumi, and up to the south end of "the Gap" in the Owen Stanley Range. They succeeded in pacifying Agi. The Wowea and Ruguoa people would not encounter the constabulary, but were not friendly, and Baura still kept aloof. In June last Peter Lifu was sent to Baura again, as it was then understood that they wished for peace and permission to resettle. He was successful in effecting their resettlement. It only requires a little time and trouble to do the same with the Hagari, Ruguoa, and Wowea people, who feel themselves powerless and isolated. Village police are in training for Wamai, Eaha, Baura, and Agi. The two belonging to Eaha and Uberi speedily arrested one of the Baura men concerned in the spearing of one of Mr. Rochfort's party, and brought the prisoner safely to Port Moresby, thus effecting what the constabulary, being without local knowledge, could not accomplish. It is important that the pacification of these tribes should be completed as soon as possible, in connection with the Brown River road.

16. On the 18th September, a start was made from Port Moresby for the western end of the Owen Stanley Range, to relieve some prospectors hemmed in and practically besieged there by the warlike Goromani tribe. This tour led us finally across the island from Galley Reach to the mouth of the Mambare. By travelling sometimes by water, sometimes overland, the village of Doura was reached on the 19th. Carriers were partly good-conduct prisoners, principally, however, free labourers. There was a detachment of fifteen armed constables. We proceeded by way of Suku, and had to follow up the track taken by a Government expedition earlier in the year, and which had been

used also by the prospectors it was now our object to relieve. This earlier Government expedition was by far the largest and most costly ever sent out, but it departed from its instructions and effected much less than was expected in the way of practical result. At Kone, the only village between Doura and Suku, the party received food and some additional carriers. There is an area of land that could be used for agricultural purposes between Doura and Suku. It is well watered, and the soil is at many places rich. It is all covered by forest. The carriers suffered much from the heat, and from the wet and slippery roads in this part of the country. On the 25th September, the old village of Suku was reached. We were soon joined by the chief and several men of that tribe. Next day the Niaba stream was crossed, and a short halt was made at the deserted village of Amaseba. Between it and the western end of the Owen Stanley Range lay the village of Ilabana, on the Vetapu branch of the Vanapa. There is no other village between Suku and Iritumuni. The first cold night was experienced on the Amaseba Range, at an altitude of 3,500 feet. From the top of that range to Iritumuni the road was extremely bad—would in wet weather be quite impassable. It was not an easy matter to cross the Vetapu, which is here a large river, deep and rapid, and has to be bridged where there are big trees on the banks and suitable rocks in the bed of the stream. If in flood, it could not be crossed. Messengers were sent ahead to Iritumuni to warn the inhabitants of our approach. They prepared a friendly welcome for us. Iritumuni itself was well disposed, and there was no reason to think that this was not also the case as far as regarded Sikube, which was the village nearest to it, at a distance of about two and a-half miles. Food was not plentiful at this place. Here was seen a means of preserving food in pits, somewhat of the nature of the "silo."

17. A report was received at Iritumuni that in a recent attack on the beleaguered prospectors one of their party had been killed. A man asserted he had seen one of them struck by a spear in the stomach at the same moment that he was knocked on the head by a stone club. The aggression, as was found later, was made as described, but the man was not killed. On this it was determined to take the nearest path to the prospectors' camp, and to get there as soon as possible. We accordingly left Iritumuni early next morning, and arrived at the prospectors' camp on the 30th September, on the thirteenth day from Port Moresby. The party we found safe in a good loghouse, but far from water, and surrounded by forest and undergrowth which they could not venture to cut down. No natives were seen as we approached the camp. It was said by the Iritumuni guides that the assailants had retired to prepare for the final grand attack on the prospectors. A large number of the coast carriers were sent back from this camp, as they were already practically useless on account of the cold, though the altitude was only about 9,000 feet. Without any loss of time, and before the Goromani warriors should be

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

able to obtain much or any information respecting our arrival, a descent was made next morning on their villages. The road was good, and was covered by us in two hours and a-half. The warriors of the tribe were taken somewhat by surprise when the constabulary, with only their rifles and ammunition, rushed down the long grassy ridge on the nearest village. The great war chief of the tribe was killed, with six or eight other fighting men, and the whole population was instantly driven off the Goromani Hill and scattered over the mountain between the prospectors' camp, Iritumuni, and Goromani.

In their houses were found many articles that had been taken from a miner they had murdered in Goromani, or had obtained by robbery from the prospectors. The fighting strength of the tribe was from four to five score men and youths. Their remarkably strong position made their village practicably unassailable by their neighbours. These latter now refused them shelter. They lived on the ordinary forms of native food, but without any cocoanuts. The place of this latter article was taken by a species of pandanus, cultivated and fenced in on the face of the mountains, at altitudes of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. The seeds are smoke-dried and strung on strings. They seem to contain a large quantity of oil. This district consists of deeply excavated glens, the sides of which are covered by grass to an altitude of 4,000 to 6,000 feet. They are steep and narrow. Villages are generally not far below the edge of the forest that covers the tops of the great mountain ranges. At an altitude of about 5,000 feet the temperature in the early morning was as low as 55 degrees Fah. At midday it rose to 84 degrees. At an altitude of 6,500 feet the early morning temperature was 58, the noon temperature 78, degrees. The lesser temperature at the lower camp was probably caused by the damp fog that rose from the river there, and was not present at the upper camp. It seemed a very healthy country, and might be used by Europeans were it not so inaccessible. No doubt many of the products of temperate climates could be grown there.

18. On the 8th October we returned to the prospectors' camp. They went for and successfully obtained carriers from Iritumuni, Karama, and Sikube, which, under the circumstances, was a real triumph. The greater part of the constabulary, with a number of the coast carriers, were sent back to Port Moresby, Mr. Kelly, who was in charge, being directed to visit and reassure Iritumuni, Sikube, and Suku, which was successfully done.

On the 9th we started from the prospectors' camp for the Government Camp on the top of the Wharton Range. The prospectors wished to get to the other side of Mount Scratchley, and it was necessary to carry away the Government party as well. This meant reaching the sea by the Mambare River.

This toilsome transport retained us altogether on these high altitudes for about three weeks, for three camps and parties had

to be shifted across the main range. The carriers suffered dreadfully from cold, not more from the frosted grass in the morning than from the penetrating fog at midday and the chilling rain of the afternoon and evening. Many were ill, nearly all breathless and afflicted by headache. It was a matter of surprise that under the circumstances only one man died. Time was lost through there being no track cut or marked across the Wharton Range and Mount Scratchley. The sergeant, with a detachment of constabulary, was sent to visit Neneba, Fofoana, &c., the inhabitants of which had shown some signs of hostility after the murder of a prospector at Goromani. It was found that a native track from Goromani crosses the Wharton Range and reaches Neneba. A large amount of geographical work was done at the camp on the Wharton Range and on Mount Scratchley, which will be found on the map.

The scarcity of life, animal and vegetable, on the high plateaux at the top of the great range was noticed to be remarkably great as compared with, say, the European Alps. The prospecting party was left on the east side of Mount Scratchley; the Government party was transported to the eastern foot of this mountain and left there. About twelve or fourteen miners were at work in this district on the lowest spurs of Mount Scratchley. Two prospectors, Messrs. Clunas and Elliott, had visited the upper Chirima, and had been well and hospitably received by the natives, but had not found any good "prospect" there. On the other hand, a fair show of gold and hostile natives had been met with in the Yodda Valley, nearly opposite "the Gap." The Tamata station was reached by our exhausted carriers on the 4th November. It had been much improved, additional land cleared and planted. The acting Government Agent had cut a track to the Gira watershed, and he had met with encouraging prospects of gold and osmiridium. With the Government Agent were left at the station ten constabulary and a European assistant, while a detachment of five men were left quartered at the mouth of the Mambare River. In descending the Mambare we saw no natives except at the friendly villages of Yeva and Manatu.

The journey across the island, including the delay in chastising Goromani, and in transporting the additional camps with heavy stores across the top of the main range, occupied fifty-one days. The route followed was determined by the circumstances of the case. It is not one that should be taken voluntarily.

19. As Deputy Administrator, Mr. Winter made an inspection of the Mekoa district in December and January last. He visited twenty-one villages there. The road from Mou to Inawa had become unserviceable through inundations. Most of the roads were being kept in tolerable condition. The hill village of Lapeka was visited. The coffee grown at Bereina was considered a good article. There was not much planting of cocoa-nuts going on. Those planted at the station were growing well. The imported

fruit trees seem to want more attention. About twenty-five acres were under cultivation, so that rice had not been used at the station for about six months.

Shortly before this visit by Mr. Winter, and whilst I was absent on the relief expedition to the west end of the Owen Stanley Range, far too great precipitancy had been used in this district by the officers responsible in arresting sorcerers, over thirty of them having been sent to Port Moresby at one time. It was chiefly on account of this that Mr. Winter had been requested to visit the district during my absence in Brisbane, and to stay there for some time with a large force of constabulary under the Commandant. It will be noticed that Mr. Winter was told the natives were discontented because the Government will not kill the sorcerers. The members of the mission seem to attach a great deal more importance to the utterly ignorant though sometimes cunning sorcerer than one would wish to see. Gaol is only an awkward palliative for the sore of sorcery; it is not a cure. It is easy to attach too much importance to it. It is certainly unadvisable to proceed too fast or too far in that as in most native matters. The most influential native in the district was appointed native agent, and put on a similar footing to that of the native agent in the Rigo district, a most useful officer. The regulation regarding carriers for Government had also been used irregularly and without judgment in a part of this district, and this had at the time caused some discontent. This was, however, soon forgotten, and Mr. Winter saw no appearance of disaffection. There had been a great deal of sickness at Maiva, where the sea is fast encroaching on the villages.

Eight villages were visited in the east end of the Gulf. They had all been orderly. A prisoner accused of manslaughter at Mobiabi had been taken to Port Moresby by the village constables. Cocoanut plantations are being largely extended.

The members of the Sacred Heart Mission were learning English gradually. Several of their stations in Mekeo were unoccupied, but they were pushing themselves into Maiva, already very fully served by the London Missionary Society. No land has been granted there to the invading mission. It will be seen that liberty of conscience, or doctrinal predilection, is not concerned in this encroachment. It proceeds from petty quarrels and personal preference. These were not allowed to prevail when Aipiani, in the Sacred Heart Mission district, insisted on having a Protestant Mission. They are now content with the Catholic one.

20. On the 22nd March Daru was left on an inspection tour of the coast lying west of that station. A night had to be spent across the boundary in the Queensland Island of Saibai. At Bugi, on the New Guinea coast opposite Boigu, it was found that the remnants of a number of tribes shattered, dispersed, and nearly exterminated by the Tugeri raiders from Dutch New

Guinea had, to the number of about 200, established a prosperous village. Contrary to what one would expect on looking from the sea inland, there seems to be a great area of good land behind the new village. A detachment of six men of the constabulary had been stationed there to form a solid nucleus for the commencement of this settlement. They had barely begun then to reap their crops from their own land for the first time, but their gardens have since come into full bearing, with the result that these hunted people have now—many of them for the first time in their life—plenty to eat. There is every prospect of their being joined by further fragments of "bush" tribes. There is no doubt a great area of good unoccupied land all round the head of the Mai-Kussa and Wasi-Kussa.

No trace of any visit from the Tugeri could be seen along the coast between the Wasi-Kussa and Walarter.

From the point at Walarter a passage was made across to Deliverance Island to determine the exact position, geographically, of the island, and to ascertain its value as an anchorage for the western part of the Possession. On the way across, the tops of the trees at Walarter were lost sight of as those on Deliverance Island came into view. The sea between them is perfectly open, but a large vessel cannot come nearer than, say, a couple of miles or more of either. The island has an area of about 120 acres, but varies apparently by two or three acres now and then. It contains fresh water, but not of first-rate quality. It is a great resort of the green turtle. It furnishes good anchorage all round the circumference of the reef, and will be very useful as an anchorage for the west coast, being within easy reach of the Morehead River.

A considerable amount of work was carried out at Daru for facilitating the navigation of the strait between it and the mainland, and for obtaining better knowledge of the fishing grounds of certain New Guinea tribes on the Warrior Reefs.

On the 4th April a call was made at the first village in the Fly estuary—Giavi. The community was found to be perfectly quiet and orderly, but school work was stagnant. At Saguana and on the whole of Kiwai Island all was thoroughly quiet and peaceable, the village police being quite equal to the task of maintaining order. The Wabuda tribes were found to be equally well settled and domesticated. The villagers of Gauobori had greatly improved, and their village policemen were gradually extending their control and authority over the bushmen of the inland district. Maipani and Dibiri were this time without any complaint, they both having entered into peace and friendship with Sisiamia. The latter were at first shy and suspicious, but on our return journey they got over all that. The Wawoi or western branch of the Bamu was traversed for some fourscore miles. Only the first ten or twenty miles seems to be ever visited by natives. Above that it is absolutely unoccupied and unused, and

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897-8.

it presents a great area of deep alluvial forest land with excellent water carriage. The Wawoi seems to be clearly a mountain stream. It is remarkably free of any obstruction of any kind.

The Bebea tribe is now a settled community. They have rebuilt their large houses, and are on friendly terms with Sisiamia and all other neighbours. The great tribes about Risk Point appear to be now of a friendly disposition, and anxious to be visited by Europeans.

21. On the 18th April a journey from Port Moresby to the Brown River was begun, to decide whether a road should be pushed along that stream to where it receives its principal affluent, the Ruguoa, as it was already known that an easy road existed from that point along the Wowea valley to the lowest depression in the Owen Stanley Range. The existing track crossed the Laloki too low down, and passed to the west of Mount Lawes. It appeared a matter of no great difficulty to make a better road by crossing the Laloki higher up, and passing to the east of Mount Lawes, and it seemed only a question of time, and as requiring no extraordinary amount of labour, to make a bridle track along the course of the Brown to the junction of the Ruguoa. There is no native occupation whatever on this road after leaving the sea coast. The land near to Mount Lawes is not good except in small patches, but there is some good soil further on in the Mount Keith Range, and further inland it seems to improve still more. There is grass as far as the Brown.

22. On the 25th April Your Lordship and the Right Hon. Sir Hugh M. Nelson arrived in New Guinea, and participated in visits of inspection from that date to the 28th May. A Report on this visit was written by Sir Hugh Nelson to the Chief Secretary of Queensland, copy of which will be found as Appendix AA hereto.* A journey was made to the Astrolabe Range; and buildings, constabulary, and plantations were inspected at the seat of Government. A call was made at Tupuseleia, where the village school was seen. A short halt was made at the London Missionary Society's Training College at Vatorata. One night was spent at Aroma, the largest native settlement in that part of the country, where village life can be well seen. Your Excellency, with a small party, crossed from Mullen's Harbour to Milne Bay, while the steamer went past Samarai, where the usual inspections were made with satisfactory results. The chief of Mita, who exercises considerable authority over Milne Bay, reported all quiet and well; a like satisfactory state of matters was found at Awaiama. A call was made at Dogura, the seat of the Anglican Mission, and Bishop Stone-Wigg made the journey up the north-east coast in the steamer. A new mission house had just been landed at Phillips Harbour.

* Not printed.

23. A visit was made to the Government Station on the Mambare River, and a better start was made in resettling the natives of the district. There were promising prospects of gold in the Gira district, and the development of the station was proceeding gradually. The Gira River was ascended as far as Dawatara village, but the district was much unsettled by the presence in it of the deserter Dumai and his gang.

At the Ope River and at Gona Bay the natives were very friendly and seemed to be making some advance. Your Lordship ascended the Musa River in the steam launch for about a day's journey, and Cape Nelson was well examined.

The London Missionary Station at Kwato, conducted by the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Abel, was inspected, and found to be in a flourishing condition.

24. On the 28th May the mission at Tubetube was visited. It was found that the mission influenced that and all the neighbouring islands, which were all perfectly quiet.

At Dobu a charge against the chief of abusing his position was investigated. There was nothing of importance in the case.

One could see at Kavatari that the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows were making sure progress. A very wonderful change was observable in the girls being educated on the mission premises. Certain villages had reverted to burying amongst their houses. These were dealt with by the Resident Magistrate.

The great chief, Enamakala, professed to be most desirous of learning to carry out his duties as principal Government chief. He was proud of the mission established at his village. The archipelago seemed to be quiet. The Amphlett group was inspected, and everything found satisfactory.

The Dobu schools made a good appearance, showing that the pupils and scholars are extremely well taught and educated.

The natives in the Seymour Bay district had settled down and lost their shyness.

A difference between two tribes at Goodenough was disposed of on the spot.

25. On the Mambare Mr. Clunas and his party were cutting a path to the Yodda Valley. Fifty-six miners' rights had been issued by the Government agent. Several time-expired constables were returned to the district as village policemen, and they began, supported by some constabulary, by arresting the deserter Dumai, who was implicated in the murder of Mr. Green. They proceeded to resettle their respective tribes. Further examination was made of the north-east coast.

The schools of the Anglican Mission at Dogura were inspected. The scholars were being carefully taught in the lower school. In the upper school much progress had been made, and many pupils were found to be well advanced.

The training college at Vatorata was also inspected, and was considered to be in every way suitable for its great and important functions.

The Government Station at Rigo was in good condition, with large food gardens and flourishing cocoanut groves.

26. On the 26th July I left Port Moresby to inspect the Brown River road as far as it had then been made. A better ford had been found across the Laloki at the point where it receives the Goldie. A superior road had also been found from Port Moresby to this point. The road then passes east of Mount Lawes, and crosses Mount Keith to Hospital Hill by easy gradients. The road is about 20 feet wide, and very suitable for pack-animals as far as the Brown. Thence it had been carried too far to the east, and over very uneven ground. It had to be turned back to the river. The prisoners employed on this road were in excellent condition. Some thirty free labourers from the west were taken out at the same time to push on the road before the wet season sets in.

On the 23rd August a hurried journey, occasioned by a totally false report of an attack on the farm established on Mount Warirata, was made necessary. Taburi, Sogeri, and the intermediate country were visited at the same time, and some useful work was done, so that the time was not lost in that way. But I had the mortification of having all my notes afterwards carelessly and hopelessly lost by being dropped overboard into the sea.

27. Mr. Winter visited the Mambare Station on 28th August. The natives were building their houses at two or three places on the river. The steam launch "Ruby" had been refitted and provided with a competent driver in order that the Commandant and others should be able to patrol the north-east coast, and to frequently ascend the large rivers during the season. The Commandant was not very well, and Mr. Winter allowed him to leave the district and to return to Port Moresby.

Mr. Russel, the Government Surveyor, had been sent to lay out a number of building sites near the Tamata Station, and Mr. Winter had to leave Mr. Russel in sole charge of the whole district, a very unsatisfactory state of matters, with 100 miners on the field, and more constantly arriving. There was not a little sickness. The village policemen were evidently of great use in the district. The escaped Mambare prisoners had been captured, and also the principal ringleaders concerned in the murders of two or three years ago—arrests that the constabulary alone could not effect.

Some unarmed natives on the Upper Ope had attacked three miners and some carriers, and the miners had lost a carrier and a quantity of goods. It was unfortunate that the Commandant, who had at disposal a large force, had not been able to go or to send there. Mr. Clunas and his party had returned from cutting

a track to the Yodda Valley. His report* will be found attached, with a sketch map indicating the route taken and the nature of the country passed through. This should be a useful bit of exploration. It is highly creditable to Mr. Clunas and his companions, all of them men of enterprise, courage, and tact.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

South-Eastern Division.

28. The Magistrate reports that an order by him to natives to not carry large knives when visiting miners in Murua was obeyed to the letter. The native population there seems well under the control of the village policemen. The recent introduction of venereal disease into the island is likely to be productive of much evil. Maladies of this kind were not known till taken there by Europeans. At Misima the natives are now thoroughly under control. The murder of a native at Rossel Island had been reported. It is no doubt the murder of one native by another, if such a crime has really been committed.

There were no convictions recorded at Sudest during the year. Complaint is again made of the abuses connected with the system of giving goods to natives on credit. It will be remembered that some time ago legislation on this matter was suggested, but it did not then meet with the approval of the Queensland Government. Subsequently this position was reconsidered, and it was intimated to the Government of the Possession that legislation might be had recourse to if the abuses complained of continued. This will no doubt be borne in mind by the Administrator.

No Europeans now work alluvial mining on Sudest, and mining there by natives is falling off. One quartz-mine had been worked on a small scale, with, it is understood, fairly satisfactory results. The company employed labourers, successfully, from the Fly district.

Some eighteen miners seem to have become domesticated on Misima, and to make a living there. On Maurua, in April last, there were 160 miners. They were much scattered, and the alluvial grounds were becoming exhausted. The general conduct of the miners was excellent.

The few vessels employed in pearl-shell fishing near Sudest obtained 32 tons; and the natives collected 12½ tons of black-lipped shell. Ten tons of excellent bêche-de-mer were got by a boat manned by Queensland natives. There are seventeen stores in this division, licensed under the Gold Fields Act.

The station barracks have been rebuilt at Nivani. The cocoa-nut trees, about 3,500 in number, are now coming into bearing.

---

* Not printed.

Little imported food has been required. There is a very good and suitable vessel for the use of the Magistrate, manned entirely by natives.

One miner was attacked on Murua by two natives as a result of a personal quarrel. Fortunately this did not end fatally, and it seems to have been the only serious crime that took place in the South-east Division during the year, with the exception of the possible murder mentioned above, not yet investigated.

There were 213 Europeans in the division. It has a score of village constables. The total number of cases dealt with by the magistrate and warden was 106.

29. The South-east Division is the smallest of the four magisterial districts, and is for this and other reasons the best under control. The islands are not large, so that the natives are never far beyond reach. A magistrate was stationed there some two or three months after annexation. His headquarters were then on Sudest. He had, of course, no police or constabulary, and had no vessel. Subsequently, the magistrate was stationed on Misima, and later still the Government Station was established on the then unoccupied Island of Nivani. Gradually some control was established at Sudest, the natives of which place were from the very first amenable to European influence. They were fast being killed out in petty warfare, and were very glad to have peace thrust on them. It was very different at Misima. There, for several years, murders were of constant occurrence, and the tribes, though small, were refractory. It was very difficult to reach them on account of the rough nature of the ground. They also gave great trouble by their inveterate habit of stealing. At Murua there were also many murders, and several special expeditions had to be carried out against certain tribes there. All this is now so completely of the past that it may be considered that the division is quite under the authority of the Government. Visits are seldom paid to Rossel Island, because there is no European there, but even there the position of the magistrate is well established. That officer, with his regular constabulary and his score of village policemen, provided with a good ketch and a whaleboat, is quite equal to the government of the division. The station is already producing a great part of its food, and it will soon be able to sell cocoanuts. The very satisfactory state of those islands is undoubtedly largely due to the excellent services of the present magistrate, Mr. A. M. Campbell. No better man could have been obtained for the position. While doing his duty strictly, he has earned the respect of European and native alike, and, while maintaining a high state of efficiency, he has done what is most essential in British New Guinea—carefully studied economy. There is not much doing in the way of cultivation by Europeans in this district. One gentleman is planting cocoanuts in the Conflict group, which was found destitute of inhabitants. His trees seem to do remarkably well. A few small blocks have been taken up, but they are of little consequence. Only small

areas would be available at any one place, save perhaps on Sudest Island, where there are considerable stretches of land unoccupied, which might be used for growing coffee and such like products.

Mambare.

30. The report of the Government Agent for the Mambare district covers the period of his service there, from the 8th August, 1897, to the 30th June, 1898. He took with him from Port Moresby a score of selected prisoners to cut a track from the Government Station along the Otovia Range, to facilitate prospecting operations. There were then twenty constabulary in the district, and ten at the mouth of the river. Attempts to capture Dumai and other ringleaders failed. Mr. Shanahan cut a track from the station to the Gira River, and found good samples of gold wash and osmiridium, now in the official collections in Brisbane. Rich colours of gold had been found in our first ascent of the Gira, which was the inducement to cut a track from the station to that river. This track was shortened to twenty-five miles. A track was cut to within some half-dozen miles of the foot of Mount Albert Edward. Altogether about seventy miles of track were cut. The natives remained hostile. The only tribe not openly inimical was attacked by others, and thirteen were killed, according to certain reports. There were some other intertribal fights in the district attended with very considerable loss of life. As late as 8th May last the natives fought a detachment of constabulary, when four or five natives were shot and four were made prisoners. The Government Agent, it will be seen, did not, on my visit to the district in May last, approve of allowing and inviting the natives to resettle on their own lands. His attitude towards them had been too much in conformity with the idea of making them pariahs. Their resettlement was imperative in the interests of humanity and of sound policy. The resettlement has progressed since that date with highly satisfactory results, and may soon make these natives useful to the trader, the miner, and themselves.

The carriers and native labourers employed by the prospectors had given much trouble by running away. This is now rendered easier, and practically safe, by the pacification of the tribes along the north-east coast.

The rubber industry has been started in the district, and seems to have a large future before it in this part of the country.

Mining has been, for the present, practically abandoned at the foot of Mount Scratchley; but the special report by the warden shows that the Gira Gold Field is one of very considerable promise.

31. The history of the Mambare district has been a chequered one. So far as I know, the first European that ever was afloat

BRITISH NEW GUINEA. 1897–8.

on the Mambare was the renowned German scientist, Dr. Otto Finsch, in April, 1885. This gentleman lamented, in his work "Samoa-Reisen," his inability to ascend or examine the river. In February, 1894, a Government party, for the first time, inspected the Mambare as far as it was navigable—in fact, to a higher point than has ever since been reached by a boat of any kind. The opinion was formed of the natives of the district, especially near the sea, that they were treacherous and untrustworthy. Higher up the river they were at first shy and timid. At the village of Umi they then, however, surrounded the leader of the party, who was in a dingy with one native boy, no doubt with the intention of committing homicide; but they were evidently afraid of a formidable silver-plated revolver, and soon after were restrained by the arrival of a boat. In August, 1895, they treacherously murdered Mr. Clark, the leader of a prospecting party, which had already nearly reached the highest navigable point of the river.

Soon after this murder the river was visited by a force of constabulary, and several men were captured as they were preparing to attack the police camp. Five or six of the men then arrested are now village constables in the district. A station of a permanent character was established at the junction of the Tamata with the Mambare. Friendly relations seemed to exist with most of the tribes, but there were repeated signs of ill-will and petty treachery. In January, 1897, Mr. Green, the Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate, was murdered with several constables. The natives were at first in open hostility after this, and fought the constabulary several times. They were driven out of their villages, but the ringleaders always evaded capture until the return of the men now appointed village constables. A comparatively large force of constabulary is still kept in the district. There is good reason to think that the present settlement of the tribes, now that the ringleaders have been delivered up, will be effective. It is greatly to be regretted that the Anglican Mission is not able to participate in this pacification. The great desideratum of the Mambare at the present moment is the appointment of a medical man as resident magistrate there. There is every probability of this becoming a mining district of some importance. It has great agricultural capabilities, and possesses large areas of good land quite unoccupied and unused in any way.

There is still an outstanding question in this district connected with the boundary. Mr. Shanahan's report is sufficient to show that the affluents of the Gira are of some importance to the miner. The Gira proceeds from Mount Albert Edward, a great mountain well inside of British territory, but it touches the boundary some four or five miles from the sea, and opens into the latter some half-a-mile inside the German Protectorate. It has been proposed to neutralise the river as far as it is navigable, or to make it the

boundary up to where it last touches the 8th degree of south latitude. This matter has not yet been finally dealt with.

Arrangements were made for exercising a vigorous patrol of the Mambare and of the north-east coast generally during the present season by stationing the large steam launch there with the Commandant and the moveable detachment of constabulary. The non-appointment of a magistrate is likely to frustrate this, and it cannot fail to retard the settlement of the district, recently initiated with so much promise. This is not the fault of the Government of British New Guinea, which foresaw the need for this appointment some months since.

Eastern Division.

32. The Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division reports the general conduct of the natives to be the same as last year—that is, "steadily improving." The cases heard before the native magistrate's court indicate a decrease of twenty-two as against those of the previous year; but on the other hand there is an increase of indictable offences. Desertion from hired service is mentioned as becoming a "serious matter." Dysentery has again made its appearance, and carried off in some localities a somewhat high percentage of victims. Food has been fairly plentiful in the division, except at the beginning of the year along the south coast. There had been some disturbances on Goodenough and on Kiriwina Islands. The majority of the village constables are efficient officers, and have rendered good service, but some are spoken of as useless. The improvements at Samarai include a sea wall, a stone jetty, a stone wall to protect the public offices from the sea; several private houses are being erected, a public library has been opened, and one slip for small vessels has been completed. Three thousand cocoanuts have been planted on Gesila Island. The Anglican and Wesleyan Missions have made good progress throughout the year.

Mention is made of complaints by natives against the employment of dynamite in fishing. This matter has already been dealt with by legislation.

Normanby and Fergusson Islands yielded no results to prospectors. Some sulphur is being exported from Seymour Bay, from ground which it is in contemplation to lease for this purpose. The average number of prisoners at Samarai was thirty-five, with one death. Native labourers to the number of 777 were engaged before the magistrate.

33. It is impossible to regard the establishment provided for this magisterial division, which extends from Table Point to the German boundary, as being nearly adequate. This great district alone could very well furnish employment to all the magistrates in the Possession. A Government Agent was stationed at Samarai some time before annexation, but he was, of course,

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8

powerless. Soon after the establishment of Government a Resident Magistrate was stationed at Samarai. In this district, at Awaiama, the new Government was first called upon to assert itself in consequence of an attack on a small vessel, the captain of which had been murdered and his crew cut up. The vessel was looted and burned. With no police of any kind, and with only a 50-ton schooner for transport, it was a very difficult and somewhat hazardous matter for the four or five officers concerned to deal with and punish a confederation of the tribes of the neighbourhood. In the first collision several natives were killed, and after a long struggle the four principal ringleaders were captured and were executed at different places in the district in the presence of as many natives as could be assembled. This apparently harsh measure was completely successful, and put an end to the murder of white men in that part of the country, and laid, for the Government authority, the foundation of a prestige it has never lost. Its authority was soon established over a wide area, especially after a constabulary force had been organised. In 1891 the Government obtained the powerful assistance of the Wesleyan Mission, which arrived there full of zeal and work, and commenced operations with an earnestness of purpose which has never flagged. The same year the newly-planted Anglican Mission received a stunning blow by the death of the Rev. Albert Maclaren, a blow from which it has recovered fully only by the recent appointment of Bishop Stone-Wigg. The authority of the magistrate, widely extended as it gradually has become, does not nearly cover the whole division, though it is felt all along its coastline. There still remain inland great areas that have never been visited by a policeman. The Resident Magistrate is almost always travelling by water, for which he has a substantial and suitable schooner, manned exclusively by natives. The coastline alone would more than take up his whole time. Much is effected, however, by settled natives in extending settlement to others. This process will apparently have to be allowed to take its way, as there exist at present no means of adding to the staff in this division. Mr. Moreton has now had a good deal of experience in dealing with the natives of that part of the country, and it is to be hoped that his knowledge and tact in controlling them may long continue at the service of the Government. He has a very efficient assistant in Mr. Symonds. Much was done by Mr. W. E. Armit in beautifying the island of Samarai, and this work has been continued by Mr. Symonds, with the result that Samarai is now one of the most beautiful islands in the South Seas ; ten years ago it was one of the most objectionable. A good few houses have been erected there lately. No land has been sold, but leases for twenty-one years have been granted. An excellent wharf has been built by the firm of Burns, Philp, & Co. There can be no doubt that the business of Samarai will steadily grow. The island will before long be found to be too small. It has been all planted in cocoanuts. It is hoped that the Government will soon have a plantation of 6,000 or 7,000 cocoanut trees on Gesila Island.

Central Division.

34. Towards the end of last year, as shown by the Report of the Resident Magistrate, the Mekeo district was agitated by rumours of threatened attacks on the Government. These were by report connected with the sorcerers, who in reality comprise a very large part of the population. A raid was made on certain reputed sorcerers after the "Merrie England" had been sent to Pinupaka with a large force of constables. They were surrendered peaceably on demand, and no hostility was manifested openly. The fighting men handed in their weapons when asked to do so, and these articles and the charms of the sorcerers were publicly burned. The sorcerers to the number of some thirty persons were sent to gaol. I did not approve of such wholesale arrests on a purely constructive offence; and the sorcerers were allowed to return to their homes quietly when their sentences were up.

In November the magistrate had to exercise restraint on the troublesome and irritating action of some over-zealous teachers, more especially at Kalo, a place at which, before annexation, the mission had sustained a cruel massacre.

In December, in a locality two days' journey inland from Kerepunu, one tribe attacked another and committed some homicides. The perpetrators were secured by the coast village police and their friends, and were delivered to the magistrate.

At Womi, in the Gulf, there was some trouble in effecting the arrest of an escaped prisoner, who was, however, captured. Shots were interchanged between the constabulary and some of the people of Maipua in connection with the arrest of a thief, who thus escaped, but was in the end delivered up with a peace-offering. One of their young men then joined the constabulary, and will later on, most likely, become village constable there.

At Orokolo a village constable was dismissed, charged with having committed incest, which is said to be not rare in that district. This is totally incompatible with the practice of totemism existing in the east end of the Possession, and not quite unknown west of the Fly.

At Keuru, in the Gulf, certain natives that had committed a burglary were surrendered on the demand of the Resident Magistrate.

On a visit to Mohu, the magistrate had the satisfaction of seeing 217 people at church. In May last the same officer found the roads of Mekeo in good order. At Inawi an excellent church had been erected, and nearly all its people attend service. The Government station was growing sufficient food, and the sorcerers were behaving well after their incarceration. There was, unfortunately, a heavy mortality from a virulent epidemic of dysentery along a great extent of coast. This disease is new

to this part of the country, having been introduced only within the last three or four years, how and when is not accurately known. Natives were very willing to take the medicines given to them.

In the whole of the Central Division there are eighty-three village constables. The magistrate has a suitable schooner at his disposal, manned by natives who are drilled and armed as constables. Mention is made of considerable stretches of roads opened during the year, some by private enterprise.

35. The Government Agent for the Rigo district reports that the conduct of the people has been most satisfactory, morally and socially. They have improved their dwellings and had plenty of food. All the tribes on the Vanigela River visit and trade with each other in peace and friendship, though not long ago they were mortal enemies to each other. There are now numerous villages in which there is no longer spear or club. Old tribal animosities are to some extent kept up at certain places near the main range. The heavy mortality from dysentery of an epidemic type is noticed, and the idleness of the coast natives is commented upon. The Government Agent found the formerly troublesome tribes on the Robinson River quiet, peaceable, and friendly. The rubber industry was introduced there. It is mentioned that at the village of Wanegela there was found in one house the father, mother, and eighteen children. I understand the children were all alive. This is the largest family I have ever known an aboriginal to bear. On the Belerupu lagoon two village constables rule 1,239 people. Eight village constables maintain peace and order among the 4,147 persons of the Keakaro tribe. Village burial has entirely ceased in the district. The traders had behaved well during the year. The station grows about half the food it requires. The establishment consists of the Government Agent, six constables, and some prisoners. There are twenty-three village constables in the agent's district, and a dozen paid chiefs. The Government Agent has at his disposal a good whaleboat and some horses.

36. Before annexation was declared, a great deal had been done in the Central Division at Port Moresby, and at some other places on the coast, by the London Missionary Society. Murders, however, took place on the watershed of Port Moresby for some time after the declaration of sovereignty, and up to quite a recent date a dozen miles inland from that place. The action of the Government, like that of the mission, was first extended along the coast. The first time I visited the village of Kaile, then all built on piles in the sea, the inhabitants could not go ashore for fresh water on account of some bush tribes then lying in wait for them. Murders were, for several years, of very common occurrence in the Rigo district, at Kabadi, at Nara, at Maiva, and eastward as far as Samarai. The coast tribes were first subdued and pacified. At Aroma, the site of the powerful Keakaro

tribe, now ruled by its eight excellent village policemen, all were in arms against the Government less than half-a-dozen years ago. Authority and control have gradually extended themselves east as far as Table Point, and west as far as the Purari, and at several places have already reached the foot of the main range. There still, however, remain large areas beyond reach of the village constable, far inland in glens and mountains at present too far removed to be accessible or important. The staff of a Resident Magistrate and two Government Agents is, of course, far from being sufficient for all purposes, but it is enough to maintain what has already been won, and to gradually extend the sphere of influence. Another Government Agent is very much wanted about Orokolo, to command the tribes of the Purari Delta, and others as far as Risk Point. Arrests have been made by the constabulary from end to end of this great magisterial division, and it is quite safe to the traveller and trader.

Much credit is due to Dr. Blayney for the way he has devoted himself to the working of his immense district. His medical services have also been of the greatest value to both natives and Europeans. Mr. English, one of the oldest servants of the Government, has now an experience of travelling in the Possession that is unrivalled, and which cannot but be of immense value to the service in future. He has deeply impressed his mark on the Rigo district, to the great gain of the natives. It has already been mentioned that his services to economic industry have also been meritorious. Mr. Bramell, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, had a somewhat difficult task, to which at first he was new. The Resident Magistrate is satisfied with his work.

Western Division.

37. The Magistrate for the Western Division reports that the condition of the native population has been satisfactory, and that crime has decreased though authority has been extended. Sorcery caused some trouble there also, but the most common offence is adultery, and next to that assaults. In this part of the colony there was no serious sickness. The season was a wet one, and therefore food was plentiful. The tribes of Mawatta and Tureture have begun to fish pearl-shell on their own account, and are now leasing boats for that purpose.

In July the coast was visited as far as Bugi, and in August the Fly Estuary. In the same month a journey was made inland to the Jibu country and beyond. The condition of the natives was gratifying, and much good land, fit for settlement, was met with. The same month Murare, on the Fly, was inspected. It was found that at no great distance from the river the country rises into grassy ridges. The Bugi settlement was founded in October. The Fly Estuary was again gone over in December.

In May the Oriomo tribes received a call, and land for settlement by Europeans was looked out.

The constabulary were healthy, and did good work. On the prison register there were 101 names during the year. Three died, two of them old men, the third probably from beriberi. There are in this division sixty-three village police, or paid chiefs. They have practically arrested all persons charged with offences. The number of labourers under engagement was 205, exclusive of those employed by the Government. There is very little trade in this part of the country.

A substantial gaol, capable of accommodating ninety to one hundred persons, was built of hardwood. This should as soon as possible be roofed with iron. A new house has also been built for the magistrate, with an iron roof and ample accommodation.

The station has a good and suitable lugger, and a whaleboat, manned by a native crew. A large quantity of native food was grown at the station. The good services of Mr. H. W. de Lange are noticed by the Resident Magistrate.

38. This magisterial division extends from the Bensbach—the British-Dutch boundary—to the Purari delta. It contains numerous great areas that are at present quite unknown, and it will be a very long time before those can be fully examined by the present establishment, which consists for this division of only the Resident Magistrate, the Sub-Collector, and native employees. The first Government settlement in the west was at Mabudauan, where houses were built by the late Mr. J. B. Cameron.

The station was shifted by Mr. Hely to the Island of Daru, where plenty of good land and a suitable site were found. At first the harbour at Daru was unknown, and shipping difficulties were great at Mabudauan. The western part of the district had been depopulated and wasted by the Tugeri invaders before, probably long before, this. But their raids were kept up till 1896. When the first station was built it was in constant danger of being attacked and plundered by the tribes living nearest to it. Gradually authority was established over some of the nearest septs, and this was consolidated by the appointment of village policemen. Under them control is maintained from the Maikussa to the Bebea, and their influence extends well into the great expanse that lies between the sea at Torres Straits and the Fly. This division contains large areas of unoccupied land, and when these are taken up additional officers will be required, but then the revenue will no doubt suffice to support this. With a Government Agent on the Morehead, two on the Fly, and one on the Gawai or on the Aird River, one magistrate, with a good steam launch, would suffice even in the face of great agricultural developments. A good deal has been done by Mr. Hely during

the last two or three years in visiting new districts. He has now a well-established position among the natives over a large area, and, if his health only permits it, he will now fast extend his ever widening circuit of effective control, familiar as he is with the ways and character of the western man.

The Daru station has grown up under his superintendence, and it is now amply sufficient for its purpose. It is not necessary to increase the western establishment until some economic industries begin to be opened up in the district, and for this it undoubtedly possesses large scope.

Commandant.

39. The report of the Commandant covers only the three last quarters of the year. It describes an operation by the Acting Resident Magistrate, Mr. Monckton, and the Commandant, against certain hill tribes on the north-east coast of Goodenough Island. Mr. Thomson had started a plantation on that part of the island, and some misunderstanding had arisen between his labourers and the hill tribes. The latter attacked the labourers and killed some of them. The magistrate found that the force at his disposal was not sufficient to effect the necessary arrests, and therefore the Commandant, with a strong detachment, was sent to assist him. They were met by much yelling and by slingstones, but there was no real determined resistance. The sling is as much the national weapon of Goodenough Island as the bow and arrow is that of the west, but it has never been found to be formidable in this colony. On the north-east coast at the places where they used to manufacture stones of a certain form for the sling, it seems to have fallen already into desuetude. The expedition was successful, and 16 prisoners were secured. These natives have since settled down quietly. The Commandant with his detachment was sent with Mr. Winter to the Mekeo district in connection with the arrest of the sorcerers. He describes the natives as being very friendly, and eulogises the work of Father Bouellat, at whose church there were present at least 450 people. In February the Commandant was on patrol duty in the Rigo district, and found all the natives quiet and well disposed.

40. The armed constabulary numbered at the end of the year 110 men, all Papuans. They are distributed at the various stations, so as to leave a patrolling detachment of about twenty-five men. These figures do not include the detachment of the Resident Magistrate at Samarai, the members of which have always been engaged separately and independently. The first nucleus of an armed constabulary was formed by a dozen Solomon Islanders, kindly recruited in Fiji by the late Sir John B. Thurston in 1890. In charge of these were two Fijians, non-commissioned officers. During the first year of the existence of this force, some eight Papuans were added to it by voluntary

enlistment. At first recruits could not be had. The natives were suspicious of the constabulary, and would not join. But gradually the uniform of the force, their arms, and the good and regular food, became attractive; generally the recruits were at first of inferior physique. Step by step it has become a purely native force, and now contains a considerable number of the strongest men in the country, and the Commandant is able to select the best men out of many applicants. Not a few natives seem to have adopted the force as a profession, several of them having now served five years. They are recruited from all districts of the colony, but more are engaged from the west than from elsewhere. The standard of drill and discipline is not and never can be high, broken up as the force is into so many detachments, and under the command of so many officers. It is, however, quite obvious that the Magistrates and Government Agents take a pride in their men, and generally they are found neat, smart, and with their arms in good condition. Naturally their accoutrements are of the simplest and cheapest description, but on the whole they are suitable and efficient. The prestige of the constabulary is now great; they have faith in their officers, and they have confidence in themselves. Of their perfect loyalty to their Queen there can be no doubt. Some of them recently came to myself and said they wished to leave the service because of my departure. When it was pointed out to them that Queen Victoria's service remained ever the same, whoever Her Majesty might send to British New Guinea as her Governor, and that, therefore, they should continue to serve her as heretofore, they quite understood the argument, and recognised that they are still Queen Victoria's men. They are paid at the rate of 10*s*. a month the first year and £1 a month afterwards.

Doubt was expressed at first by those that knew the Papuan best whether they could be trusted as a constabulary, fear being entertained that they would be too prone to use their weapons, to abuse their position, and perhaps that they might turn on their employers. But the good nature of the race has manifested itself openly in the constabulary. Quarrels amongst themselves are very rare. It is not often that they have been guilty of extortion. In dealing with refractory, wild, or hostile tribes they have on many occasions shown an amount of forbearance that was simply astonishing. This has frequently been carried to an extent that has caused danger. Personally I have never seen one of them flinch before opposition; and it cannot be doubted that a mere handful of them will follow a man they trust anywhere, and abide by him. The late Corporal Sedu could have escaped when Mr. Green was murdered; he had already got clear and could have got away, but he returned and died by his officer. Others have shown similar devotion, though with a happier issue, under circumstances of great danger.

It is gratifying that Your Lordship and the Secretary of State have sanctioned the issue of a good-conduct medal which can be

given to members of the constabulary in recognition of meritorious service. I regret that I have not had an opportunity of presenting this personally to the present sergeant, Sepa; to Corporal Kimai; and to Romé, the first native of British New Guinea to cross the island from sea to sea. No doubt this will be attended to by my successor.

41. The constabulary alone, however, could never carry out police work in all the villages of the Possession. To meet this a large body of village policemen is gradually being created, which will eventually cover the whole country with a continuous network. This began originally with one man, the excellent village policeman of Port Moresby. They now number as follows:—

Western Division	63
Central Division	83
Eastern Division	36
South-eastern Division...	20
Total at the end of the year	202

The usefulness of the village policemen, of course, depends greatly on the Resident Magistrate or Government Agent in each case. Less use seems to be made of them in the Eastern Division than elsewhere. In the west they practically perform all ordinary police work, the constabulary thus remaining free to extend authority over new tribes, and being always ready as a reserve to support the village policemen when necessary. In the Central Division they arrest and bring in most prisoners; and they constantly join the constabulary, and help the latter to carry out their own more particular functions amongst inland tribes. In the South-east Division Mr. Campbell attributes the highly satisfactory state of his jurisdiction in a large degree to the services of the village policemen. Mr. Moreton does not seem to be so well served by them. Nevertheless, the recent arrests on the Mambare would not have been effected without the newly appointed village policemen of that district. Each of these men receives, with a few exceptions, only £1 a year and suitable uniform. This number will probably be trebled or quadrupled during the next ten years. They are the best substitute that can be created in the place of the tribal chiefs that do not exist in British New Guinea.

42. Nothing shows better the march of events in the Possession during the last decade than the progressive employment of natives. When annexation took place, there was not a native in any regular employment under the Government. The boat's crew in Port Moresby Harbour consisted of coloured men imported from Queensland. These were paid each £8 a month. After a short time they could not be engaged at less than £14. It was considered risky to man the boat with Papuans, though the London Missionary Society must often have had crews mainly composed of natives. It was perfectly clear that no

Administration could long be carried on in this way on £15,000 a year. For this reason, as well as for the education of the natives, it was decided that they should be employed wherever possible. No expenditure can be incurred in British New Guinea without the sanction of Queensland. A very modest vote was proposed by me for native employees in submitting the first estimates of expenditure, but this was struck out in Queensland as an absurdity. In the Estimates for 1891-92, however, a vote of £50 was approved for "chiefs and native magistrates." At the present time probably about one-fifth of the total expenditure is disbursed for native services. Were the whole £15,000 expended on a European police force for the Possession, it would be far less efficient than the present native armed constabulary and village policemen.

Overseer of Works and Head Gaoler.

43. Mr. MacDonald, overseer of works, in his report merely enumerates the different kinds of work done during the year, almost entirely carried out by prison labour. These were chiefly repairs to buildings, cleaning cocoanut plantations, building a seawall, and roadmaking. This is more fully dealt with under "Prisons."

44. In his report on prisons, the head gaoler mentions that long-sentenced prisoners are generally sent to serve their sentence in districts other than their own; short-sentenced prisoners remain in their own district. If a prisoner has to wait for an opportunity to get home, he is paid as a free labourer. Long-sentenced and well-behaved prisoners receive some trade goods when discharged. Several pass annually into the constabulary, where they almost invariably do good service. They are taught cleanliness, and learn to speak more or less English. They receive three meals a day. They suffer from slight attacks of fever, which generally last only for one day; and they are frequently the subjects of mild rheumatism. At Samarai the prison labour extended the stone jetty, built some seawall, and reclaimed the foreshore. In wet weather they were employed indoors. A bridle road was made across Mount Warirata. The seawall at Port Moresby was extended, and many other things were done by the prisoners. They begin work at 7 a.m., have an hour's rest in the middle of the day, and leave off work at 5 p.m. On Saturday they have a half-holiday. Prison offences are rare. There is no flogging. As a rule they are tractable, industrious, cheerful, and very intelligent. Old prisoners have frequently reported the intention of new ones to escape. At Port Moresby there are always four armed constables as prison guard. They are generally men that have themselves been prisoners, and this is a stimulus to prisoners, who look forward to the time when they too may become the armed guard. There is one Solomon Island professional warder, who has now been in the service about eight years. Intelligent prisoners are appointed

gangers, and have certain small privileges, and these positions are much coveted. The prison language is English, but of course interpretation is very frequently required, almost always with new prisoners. The average number of prisoners on the Port Moresby register for the year was fifty-one.

45. Perhaps in no department has the Administration been more fortunate than in its head gaolers. Imprisonment was, of course, a totally new idea to the native. At first it was a complete failure. The prisoners fretted, lost courage, pined, sickened, and died. So serious was this the first year or two that it became a question whether, if matters continued in the same strain, it would not be necessary to abolish prisons altogether and substitute some form of relegation. But after a couple of years the prison began to be better understood, and the prisoners no longer died of dread or hopelessness. The regular hours, regular meals, and the demonstrated proof that the prisoners were not kept to be killed or illtreated, and would be eventually liberated, soon put them into a healthy state, both morally and physically. Fortunately the first head gaoler, the late Mr. Denis Gleeson, was precisely the man that was wanted to carry out the system of imprisonment that had been deliberately decided upon. He was very kind, even sympathetic, to prisoners; but at the same time he was firm, and maintained discipline without ever insisting on what would not have been allowed, the introduction of the brutalising lash. The bad man was punished; the good man was commended, rewarded, or promoted. All were taught obedience, regular habits, and the inflexibility of Government orders. They soon began to learn what things the white man will not allow. They were apt pupils under Mr. Gleeson, and the elder ones soon took to teaching the younger ones, and in the course of a few years they began to return to their own people to teach them also. Relapses are very infrequent. It was soon seen that the lines on which the prisoners were treated were fully applicable. On one occasion when Mr. Gleeson expressed a desire to come to Australia to see how prisoners are dealt with there, he was informed, with perfect sincerity, that I preferred his own system to any other. His successor, Mr. John Meredith, continued the same methods, taking a personal interest in the education of each prisoner. Mr. MacDonald is by no means behind his predecessors in these respects. Under his guidance the prison still continues to be a great training and educational establishment for adults. Many constables and village policemen, now doing excellent work as faithful and trustworthy servants, had their tuition in gaol. There is one point on which the prison system has fallen short of the ideal, and it has also been a defect all along in the case of the armed constabulary. It has not been possible to have a teacher exclusively for the prisoners, or one for the constabulary. Through the London Missionary Society, divine service is performed on the Sabbath for the prisoners at Port Moresby

and Samarai. But one would wish to have the long-sentenced men taught to read and write, which would add greatly to their usefulness after leaving prison. Hitherto the difficulties have been insuperable, but before long it may become practicable to employ teachers exclusively for this.

A visit to Samarai and Port Moresby will show even the most unobservant person that a great amount of work has already been performed by the prisoners. It was a very large undertaking at Samarai to fill in a dozen acres of noisome mangrove swamp. This had to be done, or the island had to be abandoned. At Port Moresby a considerable extent of road-making has been done ; half the town site has been faced by a very substantial sea-wall. A considerable part of a stone pier has been built, and great cocoanut plantations have been kept clean. Latterly the prisoners have been road-making in the outlying country, and their work in this direction cannot be seen without visiting it there.

At the other stations prisoners are mainly employed in planting food, keeping buildings in repair, making roads, and such like. They are treated on the same lines as at Port Moresby and Samarai, the educational factor always in every case predominating over the penal.

It is confidently believed that all officers and employees connected with the prisoners are imbued by the right spirit, and that so long as this continues the prisoners will be well treated without being petted, and the prison will remain a valuable training institution.

Mission Work.

46. Of the four missionary bodies at work the oldest in the Possession is the London Missionary Society, started in 1871. Next comes the Sacred Heart Mission, established in 1885, that is three years before annexation. The Wesleyan and the Anglican missions were founded in 1891.

London Missionary Society.

47. The London Missionary Society, as the pioneer, was, of course, exposed to special danger and hardship in obtaining a footing in different parts of the country, and perhaps much more so in maintaining it. It was more through it than by any other means that the way was prepared for the founding of the colony. Before annexation it had a chequered existence. Many teachers died of illness. Several were killed by the people for whom they had come to work. In the history of this mission there loom out conspicuously the names of the two great missionaries, the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers, the former typically a man of thought, the latter typically a man of

action. Each of them has worked for and among the Papuans for over a score of years, and they still carry on work of the greatest importance.

Mr. Chalmers is now successfully working an English mission in the Fly estuary. He was practically the creator of the mission in the east end of the Possession; he evangelised Maiva and the neighbouring district; and he has been the apostle of the Gulf of Papua. His geographical work has also been of much value, especially in the Gulf country.

Mr. Holmes's mission I have not been able to visit personally, but it is very favourably spoken of by those that have seen it. His mission, not hitherto described in any despatch, is conducted as detailed in Appendix FF.* The missions at Port Moresby, Vatorata, Kerepuna, Fyfe Bay, Saguana, Delena, and Kwato have been already reported on.

The teaching of English is now being pushed by this mission. It has been decided to establish an inland mission, with a resident missionary, on the Vanigela (Kemp Welch River); and also to open an industrial school. At the present time they have eight established mission stations with a resident European missionary at each; but these are all on the coast, and are not able to exercise strict surveillance even over the coast alone. The immense field that lies behind this very thin and interrupted line is totally unprovided for. Great gratitude is due to this large-hearted mission for its quiet and laborious toil in the Possession. But to witness the good they have actually done only increases in one the wish that they should undertake a great deal more, even if this were done at the expense of reducing missionary effort elsewhere among the yellow races until our own aboriginal fellow-subjects are evangelised. The Government of the Possession will undoubtedly do all it can to facilitate the contemplated expansion mentioned above. But the small increase now thought of is indeed very far from meeting the case. Before long the directors will have to face the alternative of adding largely to the mission, or of contracting to leave a clear field to others. It is sincerely to be hoped that they will adopt the former course, and thus turn to account the great knowledge and experience they have accumulated.

Each one of the missionaries of the Society has busied himself with the study of the native language of his own particular district, and small books and translations have been made by them accordingly. The literary work of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, comprising an excellent grammar and dictionary of the Motu language, and a translation of the whole of the New Testament, is monumental. The former was of much use to the Government in the first years after annexation, and it possesses now, and always will have, a high scientific value.

* Not printed.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8.

The statistics of this mission are as below :—

When begun	1871	Number of scholars ...	900
English missionaries ...	9	Boys' day schools ...	60
Ordained native agents	103	Scholars—boys ...	2,600
Church members ...	1,600	Girls' day schools ...	20
Native adherents ...	10,000	Scholars—girls ...	1,000
Sunday schools ...	29	Local contributions ...	£288

The Sacred Heart Mission.

48. The Sacred Heart Mission has now been in the Possession over thirteen years. It was founded originally by the late Bishop Verjus, a wise, energetic, enthusiastic missionary. He outlined the work of the mission, and died when the work of initiation was still under way. Owing to the chronic ill-health of the head of the mission, its practical working devolved on Bishop Verjus and on his successor, the Rev. Dr. Genocchi, an excellent man for such a post. Bishop Verjus worked loyally with the Government at the time the tribes of Mekeo were being subdued to authority. Dr. Genocchi did very good service by lending his weight and influence to put an end to village burial, and by working hand in hand with all Government officers visiting Mekeo. His great learning, his breadth of mind, his devotion to duty, commanded universal respect, and his departure from the colony was much regretted. There have been and are some excellent missionaries among the fathers and brothers of this mission, notably Fathers Toublanc of Mou, Vitali of Inawi, and Bouellat of Vaipa. The first had unfortunately to leave on account of ill-health ; the other two still conduct very successful missions. The Sacred Heart voluntarily selected their present field of operations, and declined to occupy the north-east coast. Recently they have been examining the country further inland, and it is to be hoped they may extend their labours to the interior, where there is a magnificent and almost boundless field. The great probability is that the further inland they penetrate the more healthy they will find the country. Their reports state that Yule Island has proved more unhealthy than their stations on the mainland. Amongst the natives Yule Island has always been considered insalubrious. They have had a difficulty in teaching English, as it was not known to many of them to an extent that permitted of imparting it to others. Some boys were taken to Thursday Island to be educated there, but on their return it was found by the Government Agent that they had only acquired a few words, which they did not very well understand. They can, however, write very nicely in their own language, and their views seem to be somewhat widened. Archbishop Navarre, the head of the mission, has pledged himself that they will, as soon as possible, teach English in all their schools. They have built a number of substantial churches in their district. The Sacred Heart Mission in British New Guinea consists of—

1 Archbishop, 18 Priests, 16 Lay Brothers, 21 Sisters, 23 Churches and Chapels,.1,100 Scholars, 20 Stations, 12 native School-teachers.

The Wesleyan Mission.

49. The Wesleyan Mission, founded in 1891, was brought to the colony by the Rev. Dr. George Brown. It has had as its head ever since the Rev. W. E. Bromilow, who is happily endowed with the mental and physical qualities that are required for such a position. They have four missionaries, five sisters, and thirty-one teachers. The statistics of their mission are given in detail below. There is no doubt that nine or ten years ago the islanders were the most murderous of all the inhabitants of the Possession. Although they had by the time the mission was founded been made to some extent acquainted with the rough side of government, they were still so wild and untrustworthy that it was deemed prudent to follow the pioneers of the mission to Dobu a few days after they left Samarai. Two points have been characteristic of this mission from first to last—intense earnestness, and sound, practical, good sense. Their deep earnestness, which never approaches either bigotry or fanaticism, began to tell on the natives soon after work was begun. They have fully maintained without flagging the zeal and industry with which they began, with the result that there is perhaps no more successful mission than theirs. Mr. Bromilow has reduced Dobu and its neighbourhood to a decently-behaved community, who keep the Sabbath, go to school, attend church, and conduct themselves like an ordinary Christian parish. The immensity of the transformation can be appreciated only by one that has seen these tribes half-a-score of years ago and that visits them now.

Mr. Fellowes has begun a change that will be a very great improvement in the Kiriwina natives as citizens and subjects. The Tubetube mission is not less successful. There is to be some speedy expansion in this mission, on Goodenough Island, where a European missionary will take up permanent residence soon. And an industrial school is also in contemplation.

Excellent work has been accomplished by this mission in regard to translations. The Rev. W. E. Bromilow has printed and published in the Dobu language the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles ; a small work on the sacraments, marriage, and burial ; a catechism and hymn book ; and a primer. This of itself represents an amount of labour that can only be appreciated by those that have given some attention to cognate work. The Dobuan language is undoubtedly the tongue best known and most used for general purposes in the D'Entrecasteaux Group ; and these books will certainly make it the literary native language of that part of the country.

Other translations have been made by the missionaries of this church to suit the natives among whom each of them is stationed, but those mentioned above are the most important.

The returns of this mission are given as follows :—

BRITISH NEW GUINEA DISTRICT OF WESLEYAN MISSION.

Circuits.	Churches.	Other Preaching Places.	Missionaries.	Lay Missionaries.	Missionary Sisters.	Native Ministers.	Catechists.	Teachers.	School Teachers.	Local Preachers.	Class Leaders.	English Members.	Native Members.	Native Members on Trial.	Communicants.	Sabbath Schools.	Sabbath School Teachers.	Sabbath School Scholars.	Day Schools.	Day School Scholars.	Catechumens.	Attendants on Public Worship.	Deaths (members).
Dobu ...	17	33	1	—	4	—	2	13	27	18	21	8	244	85	—	13	24	824	14	876	240	5,679	2
Panaieti	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	8	—	4	2	17	21	—	5	10	120	3	80	31	1,000	—
Tubetube	6	10	1	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	8	2	41	56	—	5	6	200	5	100	13	1,330	2
Kiriwina	3	25	1	—	1	—	1	6	3	—	2	3	12	—	—	1	2	50	1	120	15	3,500	—
Totals	33	69	4	—	5	—	3	31	45	18	35	15	314	162	—	24	42	1,194	23	1,176	299	11,509	4

AT DOBU.

Actual students in training—five of these are married 29
Girls on the station 30
Besides a dozen or so of boys for future acceptance as students.

The Anglican Mission.

50. The Anglican Mission was also established in 1891. It was for a long time paralysed by the death of the Rev. Albert MacLaren, and but for the courage and tenacity of the Rev. Copland King it would apparently have become practically extinct. That gentleman remained on the field steadily at work with very little support, making progress and keeping the mission afloat till the appointment of Bishop Stone-Wigg, who with additional assistance arrived there only a few months ago. The Bishop has already been able to expand the field of labour considerably by opening up new stations. It is greatly to be regretted that the force at the disposal of the Bishop is not sufficient to enable him to occupy the Ope, Mambare, and Gira districts now that the tribes of those parts are becoming quieter and settling down. It would probably be no exaggeration to say that the Bishop could do three times as much work were he provided with a good steam launch as he can do without one. The north-east coast is topographically well suited for locomotion of that kind. The effect of constant supervision over South Sea teachers is seen to great advantage in the Wesleyan Mission, which is well concentrated. Such concentration is hardly possible on the north-east ; hence the great necessity for a steam launch to carry the head of the mission rapidly from station to station.

At the end of June, 1898, the staff of the Anglican Mission in New Guinea was as follows :—1 bishop, 2 priests, 5 laymen, 5 ladies, 8 South Sea Islanders.

Regular schools and services were being conducted at Awaiama, Taupota, Wamira, Wedau, Dogura, Boianai, and Guravara, and several of the staff were engaged in the establishment of a station at Collingwood Bay.

At all the schools under white teachers, English is being taught three or four times a week, conversationally, according to the " Gouin " method, and also in reading and writing. These schools are—Taupota, Wamira, Wedau, and Dogura.

Mr. Copland King has translated one of the gospels into the language spoken in the neighbourhood of the principal station, and he has compiled a suitable grammar and dictionary, besides doing other translations.

Lady Workers in the Missions.

51. The ladies connected with these several missions have performed work of the greatest importance. Mrs. Lawes has taught Papuan girls for more than twenty years, and can look back on a great record of beneficence. This lady, as long ago as

1882, visited a part of the inland country, which was some years later the field of operation of a great expedition under a distinguished explorer. Mrs. Lawes has done, to say the least, as much as any other person has ever accomplished to clean and brighten Papuan homes. In my despatch of 2nd May it was mentioned that Mrs. Chalmers was conducting the classes at Saguana in the absence of Mr. Chalmers. The very successful teaching of Mrs. Pearse has several times been pointed out. The splendid results obtained by Mrs. Abel Your Lordship had lately an opportunity of seeing on the spot.

It is hardly necessary to say that the Mother Superior and the sisters of the Sacred Heart Mission devote themselves entirely to the duties of their own sphere. It is most regrettable that these ladies suffer so much from sickness. Several of them have died; many have suffered a great deal. Of course they bear all this without complaint, and are ever ready to die at their post. It is not possible to ignore this devotion to duty; none can fail to admire their constancy. But there is another way of looking at this question. The mortality and suffering among the sisters seem to be greater proportionately than they should be. The death of any one of them is a loss to their district, and everything that it is possible to do should be done to improve their sanitary surroundings, and to fit them physically to turn their powers and their zealous labour to the best advantage of that service to which they voluntarily devote themselves. This requires knowledge and practical experience. So far as physical causes are concerned, there should certainly not be greater mortality amongst the ladies of this mission than amongst those of other missions. They are all equally devoted to work; they all live very much in the same climate; but the ladies of the Sacred Heart Mission suffer most. So long as this is so there is room for improvement in the general management of the Sacred Heart Mission. A medical missionary added to this mission would undoubtedly save many valuable lives. Their high rate of mortality, both in male and in female workers, shows perfectly clearly that those responsible for the management of the mission are less well acquainted than are the other missions with the conditions of life that must be followed in the climate of British New Guinea.

The work of the sisters of the Anglican Mission was noticed in a recent despatch, and their effective teaching at Dogura and at Wamila was commented on.

The sisters have also done excellent work in the Wesleyan Mission, and are contributing in no small degree to remould the character of young girls in the Dobu district.

The great and striking influence of Mrs. Fellowes and the sisters on Kiriwina was noticed in a recent despatch as being very remarkable. It has been recognised by every one that has

had an opportunity of seeing the work carried on in the Dobu district that Mrs. Bromilow has been a powerful factor in the almost unprecedented success that has attended that mission. Mrs. Bromilow's work is being kept up in her absence by Mrs. Fletcher.

There is no doubt that the lady workers are of great use in mission work in the Possession. It is undeniable, however, that the climate is much more trying to them than to men. Consequently it is necessary that they should be better cared for in all that concerns sanitation. They require shorter hours and more nutritious, more easily digestible, food. They must be better guarded from exposure to the sun, to wet, and to cold winds. And they must have much more frequent leave of absence, and change to a cooler climate.

52. It has been a matter of extreme gratification to the Government of the Possession that during the ten years of its existence no missionary or teacher has met death by violence at the hands of the natives. This is specially a matter for congratulation, as it is well known to readers of mission literature that the readiness, amounting to desire, to undergo martyrdom was not wanting in at least one mission. This is a degree of zeal that is no doubt most admirable in the individual, but it is a constant source of anxiety to an Administration charged with establishing and maintaining peace among savage tribes. There have been numerous cases of misunderstandings between members of the missions and natives, but in no instance have these proceeded to the infliction of serious violence, although it has occasionally amounted to assault, and even to the robbery of certain teachers. The Wesleyans have been specially fortunate in having very few differences with natives. The pioneer mission, the London Missionary Society, had already a heavy death-roll through native violence before annexation, no fewer than some seven or eight teachers, with members of their family, having been killed. The risks they incurred in those days must have been very great in some places, where they were completely isolated amongst savage, greedy, easily offended tribes, at a time when there was no law in the land, and no force behind the missionary and teacher. To this was to be added unacquaintance on the part of the teachers with the habits, customs, and prejudices of the natives; while the latter are naturally impulsive, and could not possibly have understood or appreciated the motives of the teachers.

The lapse of time has steadily strengthened the conviction that mission labour is of immense value and importance in the Possession. It has been pointed out that the constabulary and the prisons are effective training institutions. This applies, however, almost exclusively to adults. The training and educating of children and of youth is practically entirely in the hands of the missions. The figures given above will give a fair idea of the

extent to which this very important task is attended to. The example of the regular and upright life of the missionary is of itself an object lesson of great significance. The humanity they practise in regard to the sick, the castaway, and the abandoned child; the moral force by which they exercise restraint over many bad characters, and their sympathy with the weak and suffering, are all softening and ameliorating influences that could not otherwise be supplied to the natives.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

53. The Rev. Copland King has furnished the following return of rainfall at Dogura Station for the half-year ended 30th June, 1898 :—

Summary for 1898.

	Inches.
January	12·99
February	9·12
March	8·66
April	7·89
May	2·55
June	3·37

It gives a rainfall of 44·38 inches, rain having fallen on ninety-eight days. The three wettest months are shown to be January, February, and March. The Dogura rainfall for the five years ending with June, 1898, has averaged 59 inches a year, as below :—

Rainfall at Dogura, for 5 years ended 30th June, 1898, by the Rev. Copland King :—

			Inches.
1893	...	From 1 July to 31 December ...	35·11
1894	...	„ 1 January to 31 December ...	77·14
1895	...	„ 1 „ 31 „ ...	50·10
1896	...	„ 1 „ 31 „ ...	43·49
1897	...	„ 1 „ 31 „ ...	45·59
1898	...	„ 1 „ 30 June ...	44·38

Average for 5 years, 59·16 inches.

At Port Moresby the rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1898, was 37·70 inches. No rain fell in August, 1897, nor in June, 1898. In February, 1898, the rainfall registered was 15·79

inches—by far the largest for any one month. It fell in thirteen days. The average for the last four years has been 37·25 inches, and is summarised as under :—

	Inches.
1894–5	40·11
1895–6	32·15
1896–7	38·97
1897–8	37·70

At Daru the rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1898, was 93·60 inches. Rain fell in every month during the year. In April, 1898, 24·11 inches were registered; and in December, 1897, 16·77 inches. The average for the last four years has been 85·31 inches, as follows :—

	Inches.
1894–5	116·52
1895–6	69·49
1896–7	61·62
1897–8	93·60

Temperature.

54. A table is attached* (Appendix Y), compiled from the observations taken at Port Moresby and Daru, which shows the highest, lowest, and average thermometer readings for each month of the year at 9 a.m., barometrical readings, general direction of the wind, &c., and also the maximum, minimum, and average temperatures for each month at those places. During the months of April, May, and June the minimum thermometer at Port Moresby was broken, and its readings for these months are consequently wanting. From this it appears that the highest monthly 9 o'clock a.m. temperature at Port Moresby was that of December, at 87·16 degrees. The lowest was for June, at 78·53 degrees. The average for the year was 82·24 degrees.

At Daru the highest monthly temperature was that of November, 83·09 degrees; and the lowest was that of July, 77·94 degrees. The average for the year was 80·83 degrees.

The highest monthly registration by the maximum thermometer at Port Moresby was for January, 91·65 degrees; the lowest by the same instrument stood at 82·67 degrees for June.

The average maximum monthly temperature for the year was 87·75 degrees.

* Not printed.

At Daru the highest shown by the maximum thermometer was in January, 89·45 degrees; and the lowest in July, 78·68 degrees. The average maximum monthly temperature at this station was 86·22 degrees.

The highest monthly reading by the minimum thermometer at Port Moresby was for December at 77·99 degrees; the lowest (the instrument having become broken in April) was for March at 70·90 degrees.

At Daru the highest and lowest monthly readings by the minimum thermometer were for November 76·93 degrees, and for July 74 degrees respectively. The average monthly minimum temperature was 75·12 degrees.

The highest temperature registered at Port Moresby in the shade, at 9 a.m., was 91 degrees on 14th and 15th February and 9th March; the highest registered at any time was 96 degrees on 9th December; the lowest obtained was 64 degrees on 12th March.

The highest temperature registered at Daru in the shade, at 9 a.m., was 88 degrees on the 13th April; the highest registered at any time was 93 degrees on the 7th January; the lowest obtained was 69 degrees on 13th September.

SANITARY.

55. The experience of the last ten years would seem to show that the climate of the Possession is not nearly so unhealthy as was at first supposed. The most frequent form of illness is probably fever; but a great many common and minor ailments are set down as fever quite erroneously. Natives suffer nearly as frequently from it as Europeans, but their attacks are somewhat less severe and of shorter duration. It is not much influenced by season in the low country; on the very high lands it seems to be absent altogether. It is never possible to say what part of the low country may be bad for fever or otherwise. It is very remarkable that again and again parties of twenty to thirty men, natives and Europeans, have spent several consecutive weeks in the low-lying mangrove and swampy country of the west, and have left it without a single sick man. On the other hand, of the same number landed in Cloudy Bay and camped on dry ground, and at a distance from swampy land, all save one man became ill of fever. Some of the worst cases have been contracted on dry, limestone country. Severe attacks are, however, not common. In about 90 per cent. of the cases that arise a single dose of quinine and antifebrine is all that is required. Those simple medicines are indeed almost a specific for New Guinea fever. But now and then obstinate cases, attended with violent sickness, or with great headache and delirium, are met

with. These are not easy to cure. Those cases that are peculiar by reason of renal disorder are generally amenable to proper treatment. The common proximate causes of fever are over-fatigue; sudden change of temperature, as in plunging frequently into cold water when heated; exposure to the fierce rays of the sun, to wet, or to cold winds. Safeguards against it are total abstinence, and the never-failing use of a muslin mosquito net at night.

The endemic diseases of leprosy and elephantiasis are not common, and are not of severe types. Deforming leprosy is rather rare. Elephantiasis growths and tumours never assume the great size they reach in the Pacific Islands, and hardly ever require surgical interference.

Chest diseases, as pneumonia and pleurisy, are sometimes, especially about the time of the changes of the seasons, common and severe among natives, but this does not to any noticeable extent affect Europeans.

The disease of "yaws" is universally endemic. But it is greatly milder than it is in the Pacific, and is, in fact, not much taken notice of. There does not even appear to be a native name for it in any dialect known. No European appears to have contracted this disease in the Possession.

The scaly ringworm, very prevalent in the west, and equally so in the east, is gradually closing in on the central district, which it will before long completely invade. It presents always exactly the same characters, though it has thus approached from opposite directions. It is easiest dealt with amongst the prisoners by sulphur fumigation.

Rheumatism of a subacute form occurs now and then in either natives or Europeans, but it is very seldom severe in type.

Beriberi has been seen in many places. It has several times caused a number of deaths among the prisoners. It is not easy to deal with, but fortunately it is not very common. There does not appear to be any contagious ophthalmia. Phthisis is rare. Only one case of cancer has been seen in a native, and that was in a man that had lived more like a European than a native for many years. There are none of the exanthematous diseases of Europe. Yellow fever, and enteric fever, tapeworm, and guineaworm, are unknown.

Dysentery is the most serious disease in the country now. A few years ago this malady was practically unknown. It has been imported in an epidemic and contagious form within the last three or four years, and, like all new diseases when first

introduced among an aboriginal people, it has raged with great severity in some places, causing many deaths. Among 132 prisoners at Port Moresby during the year nine deaths occurred, all save one from dysentery. It has been carried along the coast, but does not seem to have extended inland. Miners in certain districts, and the natives working with them, have occasionally become affected by a form of dysentery when sluicing—for example, in the cold water at the foot of Mount Scratchley. But that was caused simply as an effect of the cold, and never produced epidemic dysentery.

Itch was introduced some three or four years ago, and for a time it assumed serious proportions. Hundreds of natives were covered by it over the entire body. They soon discovered the potency of sulphur in this disease, but a great many natives have got rid of it that never had any sulphur to use. It is not uncommon yet among children. In all probability it is now, like dysentery, domesticated, and will never be exterminated.

Venereal diseases have several times been introduced, especially the less severe forms, though the worst kind has also been communicated to natives. Recently there has been a new introduction of it on Murua, where it has spread rapidly.

The effect of venereal diseases on Polynesians, especially from the Solomon and New Hebrides Islands, is often most disastrous. They do not seem, so far, to have assumed that malignant type amongst the Papuans. Dengue fever has been taken to the Possession, but it has not done any great harm. No form of ailment causes more petty inconvenience and worry than "scrub itch." It becomes, in some districts, a real torment. But it is greatly mitigated by the use of appropriate remedies.

The maladies mentioned above are the principal ones in the colony. They would rather point to its being a healthy tropical country than otherwise. The serious mortality that formerly prevailed amongst the teachers of the London Missionary Society, and that is, or has till quite lately been, so considerable in the case of the Sacred Heart Mission, is to be imputed to defective knowledge of the conditions of life in New Guinea and to the neglect to use suitable sanitary means and methods.

With the exercise of reasonable care there is no doubt that a healthy person may remain in the Possession for an indefinite time in active employment. For example, the oldest missionaries in the country, the Rev. Dr. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers, will, as regards physique, compare favourably with men of the same age in any country, and they have each performed a vast amount of work.

56. In the matter of regimen there are amongst Europeans in the Possession two distinct courses followed. In the one a fairly sufficient dietary is adopted, with an absolute exclusion of wine, beer, and all other forms of alcoholic stimulants whatever. In the other class a diet of inferior quality is taken, and it is supplemented by some stimulant containing probably a small quantity of alcohol in some form or other; or the stimulant is taken in addition to a diet that is sufficient without it. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the former is by far the better course, and that the latter is a mistake. In my experience people that are total abstainers in the colony enjoy better health and have a lower mortality than those that are not total abstainers. There is a widespread popular belief that some stimulant is required in the tropics, especially by people that have in a cooler climate been accustomed to it. This will not stand the test of experience. It is a matter that anyone not a total abstainer can prove for himself in a month. I have not known a missionary that was of intemperate habits; but it is easy to see that the missionary that has no alcoholic stimulant with his meals is healthier than he that has. The principle applies to all residents in the country, but it is easier to see in the case of the missionaries than among other classes, because their habits and practice are more regular and uniform. The missions that as a class are total abstainers are the healthier, and stand exposure better than others. The man that is a total abstainer bears very much better the onset of fever than the man that is not; and he is also less liable to other diseases. These stimulants are valuable in conditions of debility when they are administered in small quantity. They should be eschewed by healthy persons that wish to remain healthy in the climate of British New Guinea.

SS. "MERRIE ENGLAND" AND OTHER VESSELS.

57. During the year the steamer travelled 16,487 sea miles, at a consumption of one ton of coal for each 25·05 miles. The coal used was—For the main engines, 658 tons; for the launches, 22 tons; for the galley fires, 12 tons; total, 692 tons. The report of Lloyd's Surveyor on this vessel is attached hereto (Appendix HH).* From this it will be seen that the steamer is in first-class condition; indeed, in a great many ways this vessel is now much better fitted for work than when first received from England.

Up to September last the "Merrie England" was maintained at the joint expense of the Imperial Government and the contributing colonies.

* Not printed.

58. The four magisterial divisions have each a suitable vessel for the use of the Resident Magistrates, with a whaleboat and dingey. Those in the South-east, in the Eastern, and in the Central Divisions are sister vessels—schooners, of about twenty tons gross—built specially for the British New Guinea Government. They are all nearly new, and are in good condition and very suitable for the work required of them.

In the Western Division there is a stout lugger, of more shallow draught, which is found to be convenient on the flats and shoals of the western coast.

There is a spare vessel stationed at Port Moresby, suitable to take the place of any one of the four divisional vessels, whenever necessary on account of repairs.

The sailing vessels are all manned by Papuans exclusively. They represent the minimum of what is required for administrative purposes even with the present staff. They at the same time constitute the maximum of what can be maintained on the funds now at disposal. They are capable of keeping the Administration alive in each division without the steamer; but the latter is indispensable for anything approaching efficient administration. It would be quite impossible for the Administrator to visit, say, the north-east coast more than about once a year without the steamer, unless this were done to the complete neglect of other divisions. It would be impossible to deal promptly with any sudden emergency arising at a distance at any spot to be reached by sea. The Administration would lose greatly in force and power by the discontinuance of the steamer.

There is an excellent river launch, which in fine weather is fit to travel along the coast as well as to ascend rivers. In rough weather, like what prevails during the six or seven months of the south-east winds, this vessel could not face the seas of the south coast.

TRADE.

59. The total value of the trade of the colony for the year has been—Imports, £46,971; Exports, £49,850; together, £96,830. Under ordinary circumstances the volume of trade would have been considerably over £100,000; but it happened that large imports due in May did not arrive till July, with the result that supplies were exhausted in some stores, that there was thus wanting nearly two months' Customs revenue, and that a large quantity of produce was left unshipped for want of opportunity.

The trade of the Possession has progressed as below during the ten years :—

Total Trade for Ten Years.

—	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888–89	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889–90	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890–91	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891–92	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892–93	25,261	14,966	40,227
1893–94	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894–95	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895–96	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896–97	51,391	44,345	95,737
1897–98	46,971	49,859	96,830

The total imports and exports, as above, for the past ten years amount to £473,369, being an average annual trade of £47,336.

Imports.

60. The total imports through the three ports of entry of the colony have been as under for the last ten years :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889–90	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890–91	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891–92	10,379	13,377	—	23,756
1892–93	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893–94	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894–95	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895–96	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896–97	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,392
1897–98	30,166	14,995	1,810	46,971

This gives an average annual value of imports of £28,144.

The chief items imported may be arranged under the following heads :—

——	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
Food-stuffs	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252	7,181	8,062	9,328	20,752	17,246
Drapery and Clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414	3,002	2,901	3,149	5,758	3,898
Tobacco and Cigars ...	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407	3,985	3,059	2,735	4,648	4,931
Hardware	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828	3,162	3,440	4,844	7,718	2,192
Beverages	805	1,143	688	890	1,625	1,760	1,116	1,755	2,378	3,819
Building Materials ...	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474	2,889	1,727	1,916	1,890	1,463
Other Articles ...	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261	6,522	7,997	10,794	8,248	13,422
Total ... £	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261	28,501	28,302	34,521	51,392	46,971

The imports for the year last past show a decrease as compared with the previous year of £4,421. The decrease on food-stuffs was £3,506 ; on drapery and clothing, £1,860 ; on hardware, £5,526 ; on building material, £427 ; but there was an increase on tobacco and cigars of £283 ; on beverages of £1,441 ; and on other articles, £5,174.

Exports.

61. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been from the three ports of entry as below :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888–89	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889–90	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890–91	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891–92	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892–93	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893–94	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894–95	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895–96	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896–97	39,349	4,658	338	44,345
1897–98	41,404	7,266	1,189	49,859

The total exports for the past ten years amounted to £191,859, an average of £19,185 per annum.

The total amount of trade passing through Samarai during the three last years has, as shown above, been not far short of three times that of Port Moresby.

The advance in the value of exports over the previous year was £5,514.

The largest item of export was gold ; but the amount of this article as entered at the Custom House does not nearly represent the amount that was actually taken away. The quantity entered inwards through the Custom House at Cooktown from the Possession was 6,068 ounces ; at Sydney, 762 ounces.

In computing the value of gold exported it has been reckoned at £3 15*s.* an ounce. The annual export of gold declared at the Custom House has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Ounces	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value ... £	14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236

——	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Ounces	1,128	728	1,373	7,148	6,830
Value ... £	3,906	2,565	4,735	25,018	25,612

The total export of gold for the past ten years, as entered at the Customs, has been £103,592, being an average of £10,359 per annum.

The second export in point of value was pearl-shell. The quantity of this article exported annually has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	15¾	12¼	3	18	37
Value ... £	1,510	1,050	85	542	1,623

——	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Tons	52	51	41	147½	104
Value ... £	3,366	3,005	2,371	6,004	8,468

Nearly the whole of this was obtained in the eastern waters of the Possession, the central and western waters producing 14 and 15 tons respectively.

The total value of pearl-shell exported during the past ten years amounted to £28,024, being an average of £2,802 per annum.

The copra exported consisted of 312 tons, valued at £2,425, being a decrease of 128 tons and £1,069 on the previous year. The export of this article has been—

Year.	Tons.	Valued at
		£
1888–89	76	550
1889–90	43	250
1890–91	198	1,433
1891–92	340	2,084
1892–93	194	1,159
1893–94	450	2,885
1894–95	427	2,830
1895–96	381	2,748
1896–97	440	3,494
1897–98	312	2,425

The total value of copra exported during the past ten years amounted to £19,858, being an average of £1,985 per annum.

The india-rubber exported consisted of 15 tons, valued at £3,683, being an increase of £210 on the previous year. The export of this article has been—

——	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Tons	$\frac{1}{10}$	3	16	15
Value ... £	27	810	3,472	3,683

The total value of india-rubber exported during the past four years amounted to £7,992.

There has been an increase of £617 in the declared value of sandalwood as compared with last year. The transactions in this industry have been as under :—

Year.	Tons.	Valued at.
		£
1891–92	42	290
1892–93	899	7,183
1893–94	321	1,896
1894–95	378	2,568
1895–96	525	4,035
1896–97	300	2,323
1897–98	304	2,940

The total value of sandalwood exported during the past seven years has been £21,235, or an average of £3,034 per annum.

There has been a revival in the bêche-de-mer industry, which shows an increase of £2,379 in the value exported, as compared with last year. The export of this article has been—

——	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
Tons	$38\frac{1}{2}$	$70\frac{1}{4}$	$64\frac{1}{4}$	49	$21\frac{3}{4}$
Value ... £	2,178	4,682	5,030	3,401	1,573

Export of Bêche-de-mer—*continued.*

——	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Tons	28	21¼	17½	13	37
Value ... £	1,714	1,087	929	1,016	3,395

The total value of bêche-de-mer exported during the past ten years has been £25,005, being an average of £2,500 per annum.

Other items of export worthy of mention are—pearls, £500, showing a decrease of £480 on the previous year; turtle-shell, £294, showing a decrease of £225; birds, £710; natural history specimens, £945; sago, £408.

SHIPPING.

62. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British, with the exception of one French steamer of 640 tons which called at Port Moresby and Samarai. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the colony was 92, representing 13,642 tons; the total number cleared outwards for foreign ports was 76, representing 12,909 tons. The total foreign tonnage has been—

1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97	1897–98.
22,824 tons.	19,759 tons.	28,824 tons.	26,551 tons.

The entries inwards and outwards, coastwise, have been—

——	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Vessels	107	333	595	531
Tons	5,133	7,845	20,676	14,511

Postal.

63. The postal transactions for the year show, when compared with those of last year, a small decrease. The following is a tabulated statement for the last ten years :—

Article.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
Letters received ...	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079	6,280	6,279	7,130	11,148	9,604
Letters despatched ...	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011	5,297	6,189	4,987	11,550	10,203
Packets received ...	93	111	142	45	230	157	129	246	181	249
Packets despatched ...	98	84	88	78	427	467	468	281	475	497
Newspapers received...	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749	8,131	7,046	7,197	7,441	8,691
Newspapers despatched	574	590	468	756	276	240	776	828	1,635	2,135

The total number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched during the past ten years was 194,169, being an average of 19,416 per annum.

Finance.

Revenue.

64. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £10,280, showing a decrease of £378 as compared with the previous year. It is compared below with the figures of former years :—

Source of Revenue.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4	2,525 13 2	4,428 14 11	3,757 16 4
Gold Fields	187 17 0	20 15 0	23 0 0	24 0 0	23 17 0
Fees	1 18 0	4 10 0	4 3 0	10 14 0	157 8 5
Fines	25 13 6	41 10 0	46 5 0	34 0 0	24 10 0
Licenses	2 0 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	136 15 0	106 0 0
Miscellaneous...	42 13 2	44 8 0	53 18 2	149 12 6	535 4 9
Totals ... £	2,679 11 10	3,015 13 4	2,673 19 4	4,783 16 5	4,604 16 6

Revenue—*continued.*

Source of Revenue.	1893–94.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	5,069 5 2	4,646 11 4	6,000 13 0	9,350 19 11	9,207 17 10
Gold Fields	53 10 9	25 17 6	77 17 11	261 17 3	285 0 0
Fees	136 19 4	105 3 7	57 16 4	415 16 9	212 15 0
Fines					
Licenses	316 15 0	246 15 0	292 15 0	246 10 0	304 10 0
Miscellaneous	290 4 2	85 8 0	118 10 0	388 13 9	270 12 5
Totals ... £	5,866 14 5	5,109 15 5	6,547 12 3	10,663 17 8	10,280 15 3

The total revenue collected during the past ten years amounted to £56,226 12*s.* 5*d.*, being an average of £5,622 13*s.* 3*d.*

Expenditure.

65. The sum of £15,000 appropriated to the ordinary administrative services of the year was expended. Of a special vote of £1,000 for surveys there was disbursed during the year £565 14*s.* 8*d.* In addition to this there was paid £437 18*s.* 5*d.*, part of the unexpended vote for the first year of the Government services, towards the employment of an extra Government Agent in the Mambare district.

The expenditure is classified and compared as follows with that of previous years :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1888–89.	1889–90.	1890–91.	1891–92.	1892–93.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Civil List Salaries	2,633 19 7	3,300 0 0	3,290 12 8	3,300 0 0	3,300 0 0
Other Salaries	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6	3,476 10 5	3,559 2 0	3,707 3 10
Vessels and Boats	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0	2,938 16 3	2,993 6 5	1,600 8 3
Allowances	1,371 1 11	2,548 3 2	1,500 0 0	1,356 0 5	1,748 15 4
Buildings and Works	239 16 11	1,144 19 3	979 0 8	780 10 1	872 4 6
Agriculture	—	137 11 9	355 9 2	335 12 3	146 19 6
Mail Service	445 0 0	—	—	—	450 0 0
Miscellaneous...	1,536 1 0	2,898 9 8	2,459 10 10	2,675 8 10	3,174 8 7
Totals ... £	10,769 11 3	14,975 5 4	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0

2231*—5

Expenditure—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List Salaries	3,300 0 0	3,248 11 3	3,186 8 6	3,195 11 3	3,175 0 0
Other Salaries	3,478 15 3	3,640 6 9	3,779 1 9	3,552 2 2	3,660 7 0
Vessels and Boats	1,308 2 9	1,214 3 1	1,587 8 7	1,258 18 5	1,588 11 11
Allowances	1,454 4 11	1,613 13 3	1,387 12 0	2,061 4 4	1,511 1 1
Buildings and Works	435 14 2	397 7 10	660 19 3	754 10 6	395 3 5
Agriculture	203 16 0	155 7 11	142 0 9	94 14 5	88 6 10
Mail Service	750 0 0	900 0 0	900 0 0	900 0 0	—
Miscellaneous...	4,069 6 11	3,830 9 11	3,356 9 2	4,411 18 9	4,572 1 7
Totals ... £	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	16,228 19 10	14,990 11 10

Surveys, special vote ... ... £565 14*s.* 8*d.*

Extra Government Agent ... ... £437 18*s.* 5*d.*

LAND AND LAND CLAIMS.

66. Practically all claims to land acquired prior to annexation have been disposed of. One remains outstanding to allow the claimants, the present occupants, to obtain some right or title from the representatives of the original purchaser. This is perhaps a solitary example. The Crown Lands Ordinance provided for the re-hearing or reconsideration of any claim disallowed wholly or in part by the Administrator in Council. No appeal has been made demanding a re-hearing. Needless to say, the decision arrived at was not in all cases satisfactory to the claimant. The London Missionary Society and the Sacred Heart Mission have each considered themselves entitled to more land than was allowed to them under certain claims. It would have been greatly more satisfactory to the Government had they appealed, as the missions were inexperienced in such matters, and a re-hearing could not have failed to convince any reasonable person that they were liberally treated.

The small areas taken up for settlement by planting have almost always been alienated at the minimum price allowed by law. Some blocks in the township of Port Moresby were offered for sale by tender after extensive advertisement in Australia. The result was far from encouraging.

The several missions have acquired the land they need for religious purposes, under the Crown Lands Ordinance, at the original cost of the land to the Government.

This may probably average about 1*s.* an acre. It has been the desire of the Government to allow sufficient land to each mission station for growing its food. Unfortunately this is not always possible, because at times sufficient land is not procurable in the immediate vicinity of a mission station without hampering the village.

There has lately been some demand for land, more particularly for planting rubber trees. The position of this question is fully dealt with in the Appendices to this Report.

It is much to be regretted that it cannot be stated here what area of land has been granted on claims acquired prior to annexation. This may be possible in next year's Report. In Appendix X* are given particulars of all Crown grants issued up to June last.

---

* Not printed.

They may be summarised as follows :—

Blocks.	Purposes.	A.	R.	P.
12	Agricultural	2,986	2	34
3	Pastoral	1,366	2	6
145	Religious	1,236	0	14
10	Cocoanut Planting	874	1	19
18	Residential	108	3	32
1	Business Site	0	3	0
1	Coaling Station	0	2	0
190		6,573	3	25

SCIENTIFIC.

67. The description* of a new species of fossil (petrified wood), by Mr. Shirley, is of considerable interest. The specimens were unearthed in cutting the road over the top of Mount Warirata.

68. The paper* on Totemism at Tubetube, by the Rev. J. T. Field, is of much importance. All over the east end of the Possession this strange institution has still very considerable power. It comes west as far as Mairu or Table Bay, when it disappears. It certainly extends a considerable way up the north-east coast. Up to the present time no trace of it has been discovered in the Mambare district, though many inquiries have been made on the subject. It seems probable it exists there, however, for many natives have cicatricial markings on the shoulders and back that would lead one to suppose they had something to do with totemism.

No trace of it has been met with in the Central district; but it crops up on the Fly River, though it has not in the west nearly the force it has in the east.

In the east the child inherits the totem of the mother in most places, if not everywhere; in the west the practice is more to inherit the totem from the father. This is quite in harmony with the higher position occupied by women in the east as compared with the west. Totemism in the west seem to be fast becoming extinct. The younger generation do not appear to know very much about it—generally nothing. It will long retain some power in the east end.

* Not printed.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA, 1897–8

Mr. Hely's papers* on "Totemism" supply the means of instituting some comparison between eastern and western totemism.

69. In Appendix CC will be found a brief note* by the distinguished anthropologist, the Rev. Dr. Lorimer Fison, on Totemism in Fiji. From this it will be seen that in that country there are found only doubtful traces of it. Much time and care will be required to work out its position between Fiji and the Fly River. It may be remembered that it was not really known in the Possession till some years after annexation, so difficult is it to discover at times, and to investigate in a way that is trustworthy. I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. George Brown for some interesting notes* on Totemism in New Britain and Samoa. The data for the interpretation of the Kiriwina emblazoned shield have been furnished by the Rev. S. B. Fellowes. The same gentleman has supplied a note* on the centres of different industries in the Kiriwina group.

70. A number of geological specimens have been examined by Mr. Jack, the Government Geologist of Queensland, who has kindly furnished a report* on them. There is nothing very remarkable in them except the occurrence of strontium in the specimens from Kiriwina, a substance not previously met with in the Possession. Up to the present time no precious stones or gems have been found in the Possession. The probability is considerable that these exist there.

71. A number of botanical specimens from the colony have been examined by Mr. Bailey, Government Botanist of Queensland. Mr. Bailey's descriptions* will be found in Appendix DD.

A report* by Mr. W. Botting Hemsley on the Alpine plants collected on the top of the Owen Stanley Range during the two last years, and forwarded to Kew for examination, is contained in Appendix II.

It is much to be regretted that no report could be obtained on the British New Guinea collections in the Queensland Museum. They have now assumed large proportions, and are of great value, but they have not been described nor their full extent determined. They cannot be properly exhibited for want of space

72. Much labour was given to extending and correcting the map of British New Guinea, the result of which will be seen upon reference to Appendix JJ,* where will be found a map, prepared under the direction of the Surveyor-General of Queensland, of the Eastern portion of the Possession. The map was drawn on a scale of two miles to an inch for reduction to four miles (the scale upon which it will eventually be published), but has been reduced to six miles to an inch to make it a convenient size for

* Not printed.

publication with this Report. A much-improved chart is now in course of preparation, in which many spots are fixed with sufficient accuracy for the present. A revision of the boundary line between Queensland and British New Guinea has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and the necessary Order in Council has been made. This awaits action in Queensland. The rectified boundary would secure to British New Guinea the fishing reefs of its tribes, and would provide the Possession with an anchorage in the west beyond Dauan.

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

73. A rough estimate has been made by officers at each station of the value of Government property in their charge. The figures are as follow :—

	£
In the South-eastern Division ...	1,509
Mambare	650
Eastern Division—no return—about	2,000
Central Division	12,216
Rigo Station	1,063
Western Division	1,045

This does not include the s.s. "Merrie England," nor the official collections in Brisbane. It, of course, does not include any Crown lands save those under cultivation by the Government.

PRESENT POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

74. There can be no doubt that the colony has now reached an important and critical stage of its existence ; that it is now in a position of great interest in many ways. Politically, it has arrived at the end of the period of ten years during which it was, under arrangement, jointly ruled by the Imperial Government and the contributing colonies. That stage of its existence has been before aught else one of pacification and of research. The establishment of some degree of supremacy on the part of the Government was a preliminary essential to acquiring any extensive and exact knowledge of the physical nature and capabilities of the country. The advance made even in peace making had to be executed with caution and patience, so as never to unduly imperil the prestige of the Government, which, had it during the first few years met with any serious reverse, might have lost all authority and control over other tribes than those it might have been compelled to retire before. Some of our greatest explorers have been routed and hotly pursued by natives on land or on water ; others have retired or passed them so swiftly as to evade

collision so far as they were concerned. Others well held their ground, or had no misunderstanding of any kind with the tribes they came in contact with. The giving way of explorers before the natives carried to them personally, so long as they got clear away, no future results of a serious character, though it was sure to increase difficulties to the traveller that succeeded them. But it was entirely different with the Government. The explorer in a new district will almost always get through safely with ordinary prudence, if he is sufficiently liberal. Government parties, since annexation, have not been in a condition to be open handed, and they have always the serious and difficult task of arresting malefactors, and consequently are bound to inevitably come into collision with strong tribes, and under all circumstances they must maintain their ground. Consequently advance has had to be slow. The officers concerned have been fortunate, save in the sole instance of the late Mr. Green, who fell by treachery and not in open attack, and in no single instance have they suffered defeat in a fight. The authority of the Government has been firmly established over extensive areas, and a considerable extent of country has been roughly examined, but only so as to give general information as to its capabilities. This latter task can now be proceeded with deliberately and continuously. The colony is therefore in the condition of being ready for considerable agricultural developement. This is not possible without the intervention of Europeans. With the exception of cocoanuts, rubber from forest trees, and a few other articles, natives are not likely alone to ever add much to the exports of the colony. The time has come when agricultural development should be pushed in the Possession with as much perseverance as has been employed in forcing peace on the different hostile tribes to prepare for it. Opinions may very well differ as to how this is best to be done; but there cannot be any doubt that this industrial development through agriculture is now a pressing necessity, if British New Guinea is to be made a British colony in anything save the name.

There still remain in the interior large areas that are not pacified, but, with peace established up to the borders of these districts, it becomes easy to reduce them to control whenever this is necessary or can conveniently be carried out.

The conditions under which land has been offered for some years for settlement have been very easy, but they have failed to attract settlers. There will be no help for this condition of matters, except to grant such facilities and inducements as may attract settlement of the kind now required. There is already undoubtedly as much land known and available for occupation as, if utilised, would suffice to make the colony self-supporting. It can be occupied without risk or danger. A very considerable amount of local labour could be acquired. There are a few Europeans in the country that are well acquainted with the ways

of natives, that are acclimatised, and could with advantage be employed by those entering on agricultural enterprise on a large scale.

This form of development can take place extensively not only without in any way infringing on the rights of natives, which it has been the deliberate policy of the contributing colonies to fully respect, but even to their positive advantage in providing them with employment at home, and in helping to make them producers on their own account. At the present moment agricultural development is practically at a standstill on political considerations. The welfare and progress of the colony, the interests of the natives, the interests of Europeans, and the interests of all concerned, require that this state of matters should be amended as soon as possible, to put an end to loss of time, and to utilise expenditure to the best advantage.

The mining industry is better started than the agricultural, probably because for surface mining it requires much less capital. It has already been pointed out that it is considered desirable to offer some further encouragement to prospectors to examine new districts. In dealing with this question it has to be remembered that prospecting among the hills and mountains of the Possession is extremely arduous. The mineral country is of itself difficult to examine ; but it is still more difficult in most cases to get there from the coast, and to obtain supplies once the payable mineral is found. As the Government of the Possession has at command no funds to expend as rewards to prospectors, they can be encouraged only by increasing the area of reward claims, and by other means of the same kind. Legislation in this direction has been and remains suspended till the Mining Bills now under consideration in Queensland become law. There is no room for doubt that the agricultural development of the country, by facilitating communication, and by supplying a basis from which to start and on which to fall back, will greatly add to the opening up of the mineral resources of the country, which are probably of much importance.

The fishing industry is capable of fuller development. This will probably proceed gradually by its own efforts.

Unless new industries, such as the manufacture of sago, the export of cane, and such like, are established, there does not seem to be room for any considerable addition to the number of small traders already in the Possession. Naturally, agricultural or mineral development must of necessity furnish an increased amount of freight and passenger traffic to the small vessels that ply along the coast. But, until the natives are taught to produce more, the number of Europeans now trading in native produce cannot be much augmented.

The fishing industry, on some scale or other, will be permanent. The agricultural expansion, so far as directed to cocoanut trees

and rubber-producing trees, will also be permanent; and the cultivation of such crops as tea, sugar, vanilla, tobacco, &c., would, if once begun, probably continue, as there would always be plenty of virgin land to fall back on.

The mining population, on the other hand, is not permanent, and the miner has shown no disposition to settle on the lands of the colony. As soon as a prospector becomes wealthy he leaves for Australia. Quartz-reef mining would, of course, be more abiding, and the surface mining may lead up to this. Agriculture, however, will be, in all likelihood, the largest and surest industry of the colony. It is by far the most difficult to start.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

75. At the end of the ten years the establishments of the Administration were as follows :—

Civil List.

Administrator	George Ruthven Le Hunte, C.M.G.
Private Secretary	
Chief Judicial Officer	F. P. Winter, C.M.G.
Government Secretary	Anthony Musgrave.

Other Officers.

Resident Magistrate, Central Division	Dr. J. A. Blayney.
„ „ Western Division	B. A. Hely.
„ „ Eastern Division	Hon. M. H. Moreton.
„ „ South-eastern Division	A. M. Campbell.
Government Agent, Rigo	A. E. English.
Government Agent, Mekeo, Acting ...	A. Giulianetti.
Assistant Magistrate, Acting, Mambare	Stewart Russel.
Commandant	Captain A. W. Butterworth.
Government Storekeeper	H. N. Chester.
Treasurer and Collector	D. Ballantine.
Sub-Collector, Acting	B. W. Bramell.
Sub-Collector, Samarai	A. H. Symonds.
Clerk, Samarai, temporary	A. McAlpine.
Sub-Collector, Daru	H. W. de Lange.
Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works ...	John MacDonald.
Government Printer	J. G. Allen.
Commander s.s. "Merrie England" ...	George A. H. Curtis, R.N.R.
First Engineer	W. Robertson.

Of these officers, Messrs. Winter, Musgrave, Hely, and Allen have been in office since annexation. With the exception of Mr. Hely they have not suffered from climate. They have been able to attend to their respective duties almost without break or interruption, and have performed excellent service. Mr. Moreton, Mr. English, Captain Butterworth, Mr. Ballantine, and Mr. Chester have been in the service for a period that is not much shorter. They and their brother officers that have served for a shorter term have not been more frequently incapacitated by illness than they might have been in almost any other country.

There has been every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the officers of the service. Their relations towards natives have not been so intimate as to cause loss of respect. They have gained the confidence of Europeans and natives alike by doing their duty justly, fairly, and considerately. The tone of the service as regards a high sense of duty, and a determination to do justice to all, leaves nothing to be desired.

76. The losses the service has sustained by death have been most serious.

The death of Mr. George Hunter occurred in 1890, under very painful circumstances.

The qualities of the late Mr. Denis Gleeson have already been alluded to in this Report, and the value of his services as first Head Gaoler commented upon. Mr. Gleeson died in 1893.

In Mr. Frank Lawes the Government lost in 1894 its greatest authority on native questions, a man of very sound judgment and of fine tact, thoroughly in sympathy with his work, capable, had he lived, of performing great and important services.

Mr. Charles Kowald, who created the Government station at Mekeo, lost his life in 1896 from the results of a most unfortunate accident. He had before his early decease contributed largely to pacify the Mekeo district, and had made his station one of the most beautiful residences in this part of the world.

Early in 1897, Mr. John Green, Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate in the Mambare district, was treacherously murdered, with Corporal Sedu and some other natives. Mr. Green lived long enough to prove that he was a man of much more than average capacity, persevering, and devoted to duty. His death is to be attributed to his intense desire to conciliate and to pacify by peaceful means the turbulent natives of his district.

Mr. John Meredith, who became Head Gaoler in 1894, died at Sudest in 1897, when in charge of the prisoners then stationed there. He had shown himself thoroughly well qualified for his responsible position, and he took the deepest interest in his work.

The loss of these officers would have seriously weakened a much larger service than that of British New Guinea. In two or three instances it for some time practically paralysed the departments more immediately concerned. Some of these men possessed knowledge and experience that a successor can acquire only with the lapse of a considerable period of time. In certain directions they had received a special training that was of use to them and of advantage to the service. To a considerable extent this had to be begun anew. It is surprising how well the service has stood these serious losses, a circumstance that can best be explained by the high sense of duty with which its officers are animated.

ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND.

77. It is my duty, at the end of the ten years' period, to put on record my deep sense of the unvarying and consistent desire on the part of the three Prime Ministers of Queensland with whom I have been associated to promote the welfare, prosperity, and development of the Possession. Sir Samuel Griffith was mainly responsible for the arrangements under which the Administration has hitherto been carried on. Each of them—Mr. Morehead, Sir Samuel Griffith, and Sir Hugh Nelson—have, in succession, made everything else subservient to the just and proper treatment of the native race. This has all through been the first consideration. They have, in numerous ways, performed important services for British New Guinea, both directly and indirectly. They made the transaction of business easy ; and the benefit of their great experience in affairs has always been at the service of the Possession during a harmonious co-operation of nearly a decade. The two last have visited and reported officially on the colony.

All the numerous sketch maps of the colony prepared in recent years have been brought out under the supervision of Mr. McDowall, the Surveyor-General of Queensland. It is with his indispensable assistance that the new map of the Possession now in course of preparation is being got ready. The colony is under very great obligation to this officer, whose good services towards it have been frequently extended in matters beyond those specified above.

I have before this drawn attention to the good offices of Mr. Deshon, Auditor-General of Queensland. Owing to postal delays in forwarding payments and returning receipts, in consequence, also, of the inexperience of officers, Mr. Deshon has often had a difficult task to perform in auditing the accounts of the Possession. Mr. Deshon has uniformly endeavoured to teach where many in his position would have only found fault.

The repairing and refitting of the "Merrie England" has now, for a number of years, been carried out under the general superintendence of Captain Almond. The thoroughness with which this has been done is demonstrated by the first-rate condition of that vessel at the present day. His services have also, on many occasions, been willingly and courteously given to engage men and officers for the steamer.

Many other officers in the service of Queensland have rendered the Possession important services. The efficient assistance I have for a number of years received from Mr. H. S. Dutton cannot be overlooked here.

78. Finally, I have to thank Your Lordship for loyal and sympathetic co-operation during the time you have been Governor of Queensland. Your visit to the Possession, made at the cost of considerable time and personal inconvenience, cannot but be of advantage to the public service, and must add to the already deep interest taken by you in the affairs of the young colony.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency The Right Honourable
Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Queensland.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897-98
256	Newfoundland	1898
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 260.

NIGER.

WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

REPORTS FOR 1897-8.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

June, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046-28.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
229	Gambia	1897
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 260.

NIGER.

WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

COLONEL F. D. LUGARD, C.B., D.S.O., to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

63, Jermyn Street, S.W.,

13th March, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the report which, in accordance with your instructions, I desired Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher to submit on the work done in raising the 1st Battalion of the West African Frontier Force. A similar report on the raising of the 2nd Battalion will shortly be submitted by Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher's decision to concentrate the recruits at Lokoja as soon as possible was entirely in accordance with the views I had expressed to him before he left London.

The site chosen by him for the Camp was, in my opinion, the best possible in the immediate vicinity of Lokoja. I do not entirely associate myself in the generalisations on the character of the African expressed in his report.

3. The Lapai Expedition commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher took the field at the moment when the crisis with the French was at its acutest stage. The assistance of the Frontier Force was claimed as an equivalent for the Royal Niger Constabulary serving in Borgu, and the representations made by Acting Agent-General Drew were of such a nature as left me no option but to add to the responsibilities of that anxious time by detailing the troops required. I was informed by him that any

2843*—75—5/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

delay in so doing might produce a disaster of the gravest possible nature. The expedition was conducted to a successful issue by Colonel Pilcher, who brought to notice the valuable services done by Major Festing, Captain Wilkinson, and Lieutenant Molesworth.

4. I concur in the value of fatigue work as a part of the training of a native soldier, more especially in view of the saving in expense to the State.

5. The difficulty of recruiting Hausas has prevented the Battalion from reaching more than three-quarters (900) of its establishment (1,200), but the excellence of the training imparted by Colonel Pilcher and his officers is proved by the fact that already in so short a period a thoroughly serviceable force has been created—"fit to go anywhere and do anything."

6. The amount of work which devolved upon Colonel Pilcher and upon Captain Wilkinson, the Adjutant, and Lieutenant Molesworth, the Quartermaster, before the formation of the Transport and Accounts Departments, and of a separate Head-quarters, was very great, and these officers worked indefatigably and unceasingly. Subsequently I appointed Captain Goldie-Taubman to the charge of the Station Staff Office at Lokoja, in addition to his regimental duties, and to the ability and untiring energy which he displayed the order and system which rapidly grew up was largely due. After his death he was succeeded in the discharge of these duties by Captain Marsh, concerning whose work I have received the most satisfactory reports from Colonel Willcocks and Colonel Pilcher. There was no better and more conscientious officer in the force than Captain Taubman; he never spared himself, and his death was a great grief to myself and to the whole force. I desire to endorse the terms of praise in which Colonel Pilcher has alluded to the work of Captain Blackader, Lieutenant Bryan, and other officers, and to add the expression of my own great regret for the sad and untimely death of so promising an officer as Lieutenant Keating. All ranks have worked loyally and well, in spite of constant sickness and great discomfort and exposure in mere grass houses during tropical rains (until the erection of the huts), and the greatest credit is due to Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher and the officers and non-commissioned officers under him for the results achieved in the formation and training of the 1st Battalion.

7. As directed by you, I add a few remarks on the organisation of the other corps and departments of the West African Frontier Force, and the general work and results of the first year.

Artillery.—This branch of the service has been organised as a separate unit from the Infantry, under Major W. A. Robinson, R.A. It consists of three batteries; two of these (field batteries) are armed with four 7-pr. M.L. guns each, the present establishment being 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 6 British non-commissioned

officers, and 53 rank and file. The third, under Major Robinson, has six British non-commissioned officers and 49 rank and file, and is equipped with six ·75mm. B.L. guns. Major Robinson and his officers showed the utmost zeal and energy in the raising and training of their men, but were much delayed by the initial difficulty of obtaining suitable Hausa recruits and by the non-arrival of the guns till last autumn. I have to record with sorrow the death of Lieutenant Porcher, Sergeant-Majors Francis and Bell, and Corporal Sheeley. Captain Armitage did good work on the expedition under Major Festing to the Anambra Creek. Lieutenant Ker, R.A., did excellent service in the Niger Company's Expedition in the Ibo country (Illah), which was brought to notice by the Officer Commanding the Expedition. The casualties in that affair were heavy, and it was of an arduous nature. Good feeling and contentment under difficulties and hardships—they were among the last to be housed, and were for long disappointed at the non-arrival of guns and recruits—were especially noticeable in the Artillery, and much credit is due to Major Robinson. The services of Battery Sergeant-Major H. Webb, Battery Sergeant-Major J. Heffernan, and Battery Sergeant-Major T. Matthews, have been specially mentioned by Major Robinson.

Engineers.—A small company of Sappers, under Lieutenant R. L. McClintock, R.E., consisting of 5 British non-commissioned officers and 26 local natives—to which, later, were added 20 Madras Sappers and Miners—were placed in charge of the erection of 54 wooden houses, sent out from England during February and March last. About 40 West Coast artisans (carpenters and masons) were attached to this company to assist in the constructions. On February 23rd last 26 of the small three-roomed houses for officers had been completed, one officers' mess, two hospitals, three large officers' houses, 18 non-commissioned officers' houses, and 160 ft. of storehouses. The houses have been well and carefully erected. The delay in the erection has been great, for it has taken a year to put up the houses now erected, but the difficulties to be contended with—more especially in the matter of transport—were very great. Lieutenant McClintock was handicapped by lack of experience in dealing with tropical conditions and labour, but no officer in the force has shown a greater energy and disregard of self, even when physically unfit to do his work. I desire also to mention the good work done by Corporal Greenway.

Telegraph Section.—The work done by Captain E. V. Turner, R.E., has been excellent. Under his superintendance the air-line from Lagos to Jebba has been constructed, and extended to Fort Goldie to the north, and a considerable distance towards Lokoja in the south. The efficiency of the line thus hastily constructed in a country of hurricanes, through continuous forest and cutting—and in spite of tropical rains—is evidenced by the fewness of the periods during which interruption has occurred.

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

But, apart from technical skill, Captain Turner has proved himself unusually successful in handling native labourers and coast clerks and operators, and in traversing without friction the territories of the Emir of Illorin and in avoiding the suspicions of his fractious chiefs. He has specially mentioned the good work done by 2nd Corporal Rubery, and Sapper F. J. Lewis. Of this corps I have to record with regret the death of Sergeant J. Collins.

Transport Department.—The work thrown upon this Department has been altogether too heavy. Mr. Dangerfield, the Chief Transport Officer, has worked hard under overwhelming difficulties, but the details which should have been undertaken by a subordinate have occupied his time to the exclusion in some instances of weightier matters. Sergeant Jones has been reported upon in terms of high praise. The Department suffered a great loss in the death of Store-keeper Reynolds, an upright, hard-working, and very efficient man, who formerly accompanied me through Borgu.

Medical Department.—I cannot speak in terms of too great praise of the work and efficiency of the Medical Department, and were I to attempt to name the medical officers who have done first-class work I should be compelled to enumerate the names of almost every one without exception. During the operations in Borgu preceding the Convention with France, the Medical Department (most ably represented by Dr. Rock) tended the sick, and later (subsequent to the Convention), when a large number of posts from Illo to Jebba, and from Jebba to Okuta, Ashigiri, and Kiama, were held by British troops, the Department detached officers and non-commissioned officers to the medical charge of these detachments. This threw very heavy work on the headquarters of the hospitals, but the call was met with ability and unflinching energy. Of the senior officers, Dr. Poole and Dr. Rees not only earned the complete confidence of all, and were unceasing in their attention, but by microscopic research have endeavoured to elucidate the obscure origins of malaria and "blackwater." Of the juniors, none was more insistent in his work and regardless of himself than the late Dr. Rock, whose loss was felt by all as a personal grief,—while Drs. Ensor and Mottram and Tichborne all proved themselves efficient and zealous. The work of the nurses is summarised in a recent telegram to me from Colonel Willcocks, who says: "Dr. Poole recommends four female nurses instead of three, and attributes to them all recent recoveries of blackwater fever." Of the non-commissioned officers, the names of Sergeant-Majors F. Wakefield, G. Nosworthy, and G. Hew deserve to be specially mentioned.

Accounts Department.—If I have used terms of strong praise for the Medical Department, I desire to express no lesser approbation for the work done by Messrs. Glossop and Harrison, Chief and Assistant Accountants. Practically without assistance,

they have laboured indefatigably to clear up tangled arrears. In this connection Mr. Harrison perhaps deserves special praise. Mr. Glossop has shown that he possesses two qualities, which I venture to submit mark him out as qualified for larger responsibility. He is jealous of the public expenditure, and shows anxiety on all occasions to check expenditure and to insist on adequate authority, and he has initiative by which he has effected several minor reforms and simplification of procedure without sacrifice of principles.

Headquarters.—During the crisis in Borgu, from the beginning of May to the end of June (which was coincident with the expeditions against Lapai, Anam, &c., and the initial work of local organisation), the Headquarters was deprived of the services of Colonel Willcocks, Staff Officer and Second-in-Command, and of Captain Crutchley, A.D.C., who were in Borgu, and I therefore was left single-handed. To Colonel Willcocks' indefatigable energy and his unrivalled experience and capacity as a soldier is largely due the efficiency of the West African Frontier Force as a fighting force. By constant inspection on parade, exercise in "field days," daily attendance on the musketry range, he stimulated the energy of all, and secured uniformity in practice, training, dress, and routine. He has been ably seconded by the Officers Commanding Battalions (Lieutenant-Colonels Pilcher and FitzGerald), and the C.R.A. (Major Robinson), and by all British officers and non-commissioned officers. To these latter is due the credit of the training of their corps and the smartness and discipline of all ranks. Captain Booth has proved a model Staff Officer, and has more than maintained the reputation he made as Adjutant of the 5th Fusiliers. No better man could be found for the post. Lieutenant Abadie has equally proved himself an exceptionally good officer. Mr. King has done extremely good service as Confidential Clerk, and is ever ready to work, whether well or ill.

8. I have found it difficult to curtail my remarks within the compass I had intended, for, though I have left Lieutenant-Colonels Pilcher and FitzGerald to speak for the officers and non-commissioned officers of their own battalions, my necessary observations on the other corps and departments have unavoidably occupied your time, since the number concerned is large. I conclude with a few remarks on the work done.

(A) *Organisation of Force.*—I have already, in a previous dispatch, called attention to the services of Majors (temporary Lieutenant-Colonels) Willcocks, Pilcher, and FitzGerald, pointing out how successfully the arduous duties performed by these officers had been carried out. The two latter raised and brought to a comparatively high state of efficiency the two new battalions, while, as I have stated, to the former is mainly due the efficiency of the force as a whole, and the success of the operations in Borgu. I submit that the raising of a force so large as this and its ability to take the field in so short a time as a thoroughly

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

reliable brigade, with efficient Medical, Transport, and Accounts Departments, with a complete body of standing orders and regulations available for the instruction of each new arrival, is a result which reflects the greatest credit on the three officers whom I have named, and represents an amount of work in an enervating climate which is hardly appreciable in England. That friction with existing local authorities, and the risks of insubordination or mutiny inherent in the enlistment of so large a body of raw natives, have been avoided, that good feeling and "camaraderie" prevail among all ranks, and that the native troops are contented, while houses have been erected, and a coinage introduced—all these bear witness to the tact and patience of the senior officers, and the admirable class of officers, non-commissioned officers, and civilians, to whom their success is so largely due.

(B) *Operations in Borgu.*—I have submitted full despatches to you upon events in Borgu. The situation there was delicate and difficult in the extreme. Colonel Willcocks was in actual command of the Expeditionary Force, and, with the assistance of Major Arnold, D.S.O., Commandant of the Royal Niger Constabulary, and with such first-class officers as Captain Welch, Lieutenant Glossop, Lieutenant Brodie, and others, British rights were upheld, and the extension of French posts into territory held by H.M. Government to be under British protection, which had up to that time been continuous, was checked. From the day that the expedition reached the neighbourhood of Kiama, it is not too much to say that the position as between the British and French was entirely changed. Further advance on the part of the French in the face of the firm attitude of Colonel Willcocks became impossible. Numerous occasions, as you are aware, offered themselves upon which a collision, which would probably have resulted in a conflagration, was only averted by the patience and tact of the officers on the spot. Their attitude, which was one of uncompromising firmness, combined with unfailing courtesy, was fast rendering the French position untenable, when the welcome news of the conclusion of the Convention arrived. The goodwill of the local population was completely won over to the British by kindness and fair dealing, which contrasted considerably with other methods of which they had had experience; so that when the time came to occupy the positions evacuated by the French, the British troops were received everywhere with demonstrations of pleasure. The rapidity with which these posts were occupied, and the fact that no untoward incident whatever occurred either as regards the French or the people of the country, proves the efficiency of the expedition (for forced marches had to be made over long distances in the rains) and the friendly attitude of the people. The most onerous, and in a sense the most difficult, task in connection with these operations was the supply of the troops from a base 60 miles distant, through dense jungle and roadless bush. For this purpose 500 carriers were constantly employed. They were a hastily-collected batch

of men, who gave incessant trouble by desertion, &c, while the difficulty of feeding them, in addition to the troops, in a country producing no supplies was very great. Provisions alike for every whiteman and every blackman, whether soldier or carrier, had to be pushed up from Jebba to Fort Goldie, and thence overland. To Lieutenant Brodie, who commanded at Fort Goldie for the greater part of the time, the greatest credit is due for his success in the organisation of the Transport Corps.

(C) *Other Operations.*—The West African Frontier Force detached officers to assist the Royal Niger Company's troops in the Argungu Expedition,—the punitive expedition to the Anambra Creek,—and to Illoh, while the Lapai Expedition was almost entirely composed of its officers and men. In each of these affairs our soldiers behaved admirably. Their fire discipline and the accuracy of their volleys were particulary noticeable, as also their steadiness and the complete control which their officers had over them. A very rapid, effective, and well-managed expedition was conducted by Major Morland to punish the murderers of Lieutenant Keating and his party.

(D) Considerable changes in the appearance of the military centres have been effected. All Europeans are now housed in temporary houses raised from the ground; the surrounding ground has been cleared; roads have been made; rocks blasted and cleared away, and the whole sanitary conditions of the camps improved beyond recognition. The telegraph progresses daily towards Lokoja, and is most efficiently served between Jebba and Lagos, while a training school of operators has been established. Detachments at short intervals stud the whole of Borgu, the chief centres being at Illo, Boussa, Fort Goldie, Kiama, Okuta, and Ashigiri. The strict sanitary rules and the conditions of life instituted at headquarters are being gradually approximated to at each of these out-stations. I have alluded to the introduction of a coinage. I cannot here enlarge upon the especial difficulties—and even risks—attendant upon this step of progress, but I am glad to be able to report that Her Majesty's coinage is now, I believe, firmly established in the Niger Sudan, and is daily extending further into the interior and becoming more popular. It is to the great personal interest shown by Company Commanders and Company Officers in the welfare of their men, and their watchfulness in seeing that they suffered no loss by this innovation, that its success is due.

Considerable areas have been roughly surveyed, both in Borgu and the Upper Niger, more especially by Major Lowry-Cole, and in Bautshi and the Upper Benue by Lieutenants Bryan and Clive.

9. I cannot conclude this report without an acknowledgment of the most efficient and invaluable co-operation of the gunboats. Lieutenant Melvill, R.N., at some personal risk, succeeded in taking the "Heron" from Jebba to Fort Goldie, where its

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

presence had an undoubted moral effect, while the landing party of bluejackets who proceeded to Kiama were most useful. The naval officers were ever ready to assist, no matter under what difficulties, in the transport of stores and in every way. I have to record my great personal sorrow for the death of Lieutenant Bellairs and Dr. Barter—and I speak the feeling of the whole Force—two out of the complement of four officers. Each was a type of the very best class of his service, and gave his life for his country, as many others of their comrades of the West African Frontier Force have done in Nigeria during this past year, so full of initial difficulties to be overcome.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD.

REPORT by Lieutenant-Colonel T. D. PILCHER, Northumberland Fusiliers, of the work done during 1897 and 1898, in raising and organising the 1st Battalion West African Frontier Force.

About the middle of September, 1897, when holding the appointment of Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General of the Dublin District, I was asked by the Military Secretary whether I would raise and command a battalion of Hausas and Yorubas in the Hinterland of Lagos. I accepted, and proceeded without delay to the Colonial Office, where, until the time of my departure to West Africa, I was employed with matters concerning the organisation of the force.

Start for West Africa.

On November 13th the first detachment of the 1st Battalion left Liverpool, under command of the late Captain Goldie-Taubman. This party consisted of six officers and nine non-commissioned officers, and was ordered to proceed direct to Ibádan, in the "hinterland" of Lagos.

Destination of the Battalion.

On November the 27th the Battalion Staff and the officers and non-commissioned officers of the remaining four companies of the battalion (which at this time was to consist of only six companies) left Liverpool under my command. This party consisted of 17 officers, 23 non-commissioned officers, and was accompanied by Dr. Ensor and the late Dr. Rock. At the time of leaving Liverpool our destination had not been definitely settled. On arriving at Cape Coast Castle on December 20th I received a telegram from the Secretary of State, in which he told me that,

after consultation with His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel McCallum, C.M.G., Governor of Lagos, I was to determine how many, if any, extra officers and non-commissioned officers I would send to Ibádan, and that with the rest I was to proceed to Lokoja, on the Niger. His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel McCallum at the same time telegraphed, strongly advocating my detaching officers and non-commissioned officers for at least two more companies to Ibádan.

Since the month of June the Governor of Lagos had been enlisting Yorubas at Ibádan, which is in the centre of the Yoruba country.

On December 22nd I had an interview with Lieutenant-Colonel McCallum in Lagos Roads. He commented on the undesirability of moving the men enlisted at Ibádan to the Niger. At the same time, His Excellency strongly advised me to send more officers and non-commissioned officers to Ibádan. Under these circumstances, being unable to satisfy myself on the matter, I had no alternative but for the present to leave at Ibádan the recruits enlisted there. I knew, however, that the ultimate destination of the battalion I commanded was to be the valley of the Niger, and, having only the previous day received a telegram telling me that over 200 recruits were waiting for me at Lokoja and that more were coming in, I determined to proceed there at once, with the whole of the Europeans on board, detaching only Dr. Ensor to go to Ibádan in medical charge of Captain Taubman's party. During the interview His Excellency promised to send me to Lokoja 150 Hausa recruits, who had been enlisted as supernumeraries to the establishment of the Lagos Constabulary. I informed His Excellency that on the first opportunity I should come from Lokoja to Ibádan, and should avail myself of the powers vested in me of deciding as to the advisability of moving the recruits he had enlisted there.

I had under my command officers with whom I had never previously served, and belonging to different regiments, and as I was most anxious to inaugurate one system throughout the battalion, I wished to bring the whole of it together to Headquarters. I told His Excellency that I would cable home for officers of one company of the 2nd Battalion to be sent forthwith to Ibádan, that they might take over from Captain Taubman the recruits remaining after the ranks of the Yoruba Companies of my battalion had been filled.

On December 23rd, the steamship "Volta" arrived at Forcados, at the mouth of the Niger.

Arrival at Lokoja.

On December 24th we embarked on two of the Royal Niger Company's river steamers, which were awaiting our arrival at Forcados, and reached Lokoja on December 29th, where we were most hospitably received by the Agent-General, and by Major Arnold, D.S.O., Commandant of the Royal Niger Constabulary,

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

who had with the greatest forethought made every provision in his power for the wants of the officers and non-commissioned officers.

During the next two days our time was principally spent in looking for a good camping ground in the neighourhood of Lokoja. We were for the time being in tents on the Royal Niger Constabulary's parade ground.

On December 31st, after mature deliberation and consultation with Mr. Wallace, C.M.G., Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company, and with Major Arnold and Mr. Watts, I telegraphed home for permission to move my battalion to Jebba from Lokoja, my reasons being that it was reported to me to be healthier for men and for horses, was a better base in the possible contingency of operations taking place in Borgu, and was on the main caravan route from Lagos to the central Soudan.

Recruits received from Royal Niger Constabulary.

System of decentralization.

On January 1st 350 recruits, Hausas, Nupes, and Yorubas, part of whom had already received some slight instruction in drill, were handed over to me by Major Arnold, and the work of drilling them commenced in earnest. The number of officers and non-commissioned officers at my disposal enabled me to divide these men into small sections, and with the amount of individual attention which could be thus given to them, they progressed rapidly. The principle I at first adopted, and have since rigidly adhered to, was to decentralize as much as possible. Separate companies were formed of Hausas, Yorubas, and Nupes, who all speak different languages. On being enlisted a man was posted by my order to a certain company; from that day I held the Captain entirely responsible for him. I told Captains of Companies what I required, and left them to achieve the results I demanded in their own way, forbidding the Adjutant to interfere with any Captain except by my express orders. This method gave birth to a spirit of friendly rivalry amongst companies, and officers, knowing that they would be judged by results and had a free hand, worked with a zeal which never flagged, and I doubt if any other system would have gained the results achieved by this.

Courtesy of Royal Niger Constabulary.

In thinking of this period I cannot sufficiently express the gratitude I feel for the manner in which Major Arnold assisted me, by the loan of native non-commissioned officers and in many other ways.

Work during January.

On January the 6th a punitive expedition, composed of some 300 men of the Royal Niger Constabulary, under Major Festing, started for Asaba. I gave Captain Lewis permission to accompany this expedition as a volunteer, for, his company not yet having been formed, I had no need of another Captain's services at Lokoja, though I could utilize all my subalterns by attaching three or four to each company, and thus hastening the progress of the drill.

During the first three weeks of our residence in the country we suffered considerably from malaria, nearly half the Europeans of the force on one occasion being down together. I took every step to have the country in the neighbourhood of Lokoja carefully reconnoitred in order to find the best possible site for a camp. My task was rendered much more difficult owing to the fact that the grass was still high, and in most places not dry enough to burn.

The country.

The surface of the country in this part of West Africa, presents at different times of year very different aspects. In December the whole country is covered with grass, varying from four feet to ten feet in height, the "one man paths" which intersect the country being the only means of passing through it. By February most of the grass has been burnt, and the view is only intercepted by small trees, which are dotted over the whole country, generally with an interval of a few yards between each. The exceptions to this rule are that the ground for a few miles round a Foulah stronghold has generally been cleared in order to suit their tactics, and that in the neighbourhood of watercourses, and in marshy ground, there are often belts of forest varying in width, and consisting of magnificent trees, with an almost impenetrable undergrowth. From 50 miles below Lokoja to the coast forest of this description abounds. There are all round Lokoja and Jebba many ranges of table mountains about 1,000 to 1,200 feet in height.

Move to Jebba.

When I cabled to England on December 31st, asking permission to move to Jebba, I worded my cablegram so as to say that if I did not receive orders to the contrary I should proceed there. On January 18th the steam wheeler "Liberty" arrived at Lokoja, bringing 98 Hausa recruits from Lagos, under command of Lieutenant Leet, but no answer to my cablegram of December 31st. Therefore, after consultation with officials of the Royal Niger Company, who told me that 18 days was ample time to allow for an answer to reach me, I decided to move to Jebba, for I was most anxious to commence building the best houses available, before the rainy season commenced. I made arrangements with the Royal Niger Company to procure me builders and send them to Jebba, and was assured that if building were at once commenced, mud houses with thatched roofs for all Europeans would be complete in three months. The difficulty in building these houses is that not more than a foot of wall can be built every two or three days, in order to allow it to dry before being added to.

I started for Jebba in the "Liberty," with 4 officers, Dr. Rock, and 220 men. On the 24th we arrived at Jebba, and on that and the following day selected and laid out what I considered a good camp on the right bank of the River Niger. On January 26th, after giving Captain Blackader, whom I left in command, instructions as to clearing the bush, making paths, &c., I re-embarked for Lokoja.

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897-8.

On the way down river I only saw one possible camping ground between Jebba and Lokoja, viz., at Piafafu, near Shonga, which is a large town, and through which a caravan route passes across the Niger.

On reaching Lokoja on January 28th I received a cablegram from the Secretary of State ordering me not to proceed to Jebba, and on the first opportunity I instructed Captain Blackader to return.

Despatch of Major Reade to Ibádan.

Seeing that it would for some time to come be impossible for me to leave Lokoja, and go to Ibádan, much as I should have liked to do so, I ordered Major Reade, my second in command, who was at this time near Illórin, buying ponies, to proceed there, giving to him the full powers vested in me with regard to the movement of the Yoruba recruits enlisted there, and informing His Excellency the Governor of Lagos that I had done so.

Clearing a camp at Lokoja, &c.

The day after reaching Lokoja I decided to occupy a camp to the south of the town, and about a mile from it down the Niger, it being, in my opinion, by far the best position in the vicinity, and the work of clearing at once commenced. For those who do not know African bush, it is hard to comprehend the difficulties which clearing presents. Our tools were few, and we had principally to rely on the matchets (knives with a handle and blade, 14 ins. by 3 ins.) issued to the men, and "trade" gunpowder, lit with impromptu trains, which made agility a necessary qualification of the engineer. With these means, and working eight hours a day, partly in the fierce sun, and always under Europeans, the men succeeded in removing rock and roots, cutting down small trees, clearing stones, levelling, and making drains in anticipation of the rains. After three weeks of this work, we had prepared a parade ground so large that I was able to say that no more clearing was to stand in the way of morning and afternoon parades, and all else must give way to drill.

It must be borne in mind that at this time it was considered possible that the men I was commanding might soon be required for service, and it was on this account that I was so eager to push on their training.

At this time and until the month of May, when some mud houses privately built by officers had been completed, officers and non-commissioned officers were living in small tents, or in houses constructed of grass and mats, neither of which were proof against the tornados and the heavy rains which accompanied them.

The question of water proved a great difficulty; this had all to be conveyed from the Niger, and boiled and filtered before it was wholesome and sufficiently clear to be drinkable. Before long the strain wore out the filters and rough ones with sand had to be devised.

In order not to interfere with the drill, and at the same time to construct a range, I hired outside labour for this purpose, and for carrying water.

Return from Jebba.

On February 17th Captain Blackader returned from Jebba, whence he had come in canoes, having been much assisted by the kindness of Lieutenant Melvill and the late Lieutenant Bellairs, the officers commanding Her Majesty's gunboats "Heron" and "Jackdaw."

Captain Blackader reported that when he had received orders to return he had already done much towards clearing the site of the proposed camp at Jebba. He also reported that two days before leaving a fight had taken place between his recruits and the detachment of the Royal Niger Constabulary stationed at Jebba, under command of Lieutenant Carroll, that the constabulary had behaved excellently, and that order had within five minutes been restored by the Europeans, who were quickly on the spot.

By the 12th February my force at Lokoja had swelled to 450 men.

Issue of arms.

On February 21st arms were issued to companies for drill purposes. At night the arms were returned, and put in tents in the vicinity of the European lines, with a guard over them. Later, rough houses were built under company arrangements for the storing of arms, but the principle of returning arms at night was always adhered to, as in the Royal Niger Constabulary. It was found that men progressed much more rapidly when arms had been issued to them, and when they first received them their faces beamed with joy and pride. They are big children, and should be treated as such. They require to be treated with kindness, but sometimes with severity.

Nature of the men.

They fortunately neither understand nor take any interest in the technicalities of law, which the educated native is so fond of, but are ready to accept and abide by a decision, even if adverse, as long as they have confidence in the judge, and everybody has been allowed "to have his say." A great matter for regret is that a European is so much in the hands of his interpreter. In hearing one case five languages are often spoken.

Indian experience of little use in West Africa

I and many officers under my command thought that our former Indian experience would be of use to us in West Africa; of this we were, however, soon disillusioned.

Insubordination.

About the beginning of March, a case which seemed to be one of grave insubordination arose. A certain native lance-corporal, a man of influence, being the son of a chief, stepped forward and exhorted the men of his company not to touch some loads they had been ordered to carry, and they refused to execute the order. The men were marched back under an escort, and compelled to do as they were ordered, the lance-corporal severely punished and the men not allowed to drill with their rifles for a week.

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897-8.

This at the time exposed them to so much ridicule that they would rather, I believe, have passed the week in prison. I mention this incident to show the nature of the men who have to be dealt with. At this time they, of course, had only some two months' service.

French in Argungu.

On February 16th I sent a cablegram to the Under-Secretary of State, saying that a reliable report had reached me that a party of French soldiers, under European officers, had crossed the Niger into Argungu. The contents of this cablegram were afterwards confirmed.

Arrival of hutting material.

On March 1st Captain R. L. McClintock, R.E., arrived at Lokoja, bringing with him a large amount of material for constructing huts. He had orders to collect all the material near the camp, and to sort out the component parts of each hut, but not to commence erecting any until Colonel Lugard, who was expected to follow immediately, should personally select the sites for the same.

Until their actual arrival I had no idea that the sending out of such huts had been contemplated. The mud houses now approaching completion were, however, of great use, for they were occupied until sufficient huts to shelter the whole of the Europeans were erected, viz., about July 1st, and were then utilised as store houses and Government offices.

On March 4th three non-commissioned officers were invalided to England, the result of malarial fever.

Expedition to Argungu.

On March 14th I gave permission to Lieutenants Dibley, Rigby and Taylor to accompany an expedition then starting for Argungu, under Major Arnold, Commandant of the Royal Niger Constabulary.

Rifle ranges.

The camp and its vicinity were daily being improved, and by April a musketry range had been completed, butts erected, and targets on trollies constructed with the rough tools we had. By this time a wharf had also been made on the banks of the Niger, below the camp.

Increased establishment.

During the month of March half the officers and non-commissioned officers who were to compose the 2nd battalion, and the officers and non-commissioned officers required to bring the battalion under my command up to eight companies of 150 natives each, which I now heard was to be its establishment, arrived at Lokoja. The Head-quarters of the 2nd Battalion had proceeded to Ibádan, viâ Lagos.

On March 28th our first death occurred, viz., that of Corporal Steuart, who died of malarial fever.

Arrival of Yorubas from Ibádan.

On reaching Ibádan, to which place, as I previously stated, I sent him, Major Reade, after consultation with His Excellency the Governor of Lagos, decided to move the recruits enlisted there, who were intended for the battalion under my command,

and on April 3rd and April 4th this party, consisting of six officers, one doctor, eight European non-commissioned officers, and 485 men, arrived at Lokoja by river.

Before leaving Ibádan, Major Reade handed over the remaining recruits to Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald, commanding the 2nd Battalion.

I take this opportunity of stating that the course Major Reade pursued thoughout the time he was acting for me in Lagos territory has my entire approval, and I am of opinion that he acted with tact, judgment, and discretion.

The Yorubas from Ibádan were a fine body of men, and the knowledge of their duties which they had already acquired was most creditable to Captain Goldie-Taubman and those who had been in command of them, and also to Captain F. de V. P. Creighton, who had charge of them in the first instance.

Arrival of Colonel Lugard.

On April 10th Colonel Lugard, C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks, D.S.O., arrived at Lokoja, from Forcados, and on the following day inspected the battalion.

On April 13th Colonel Lugard and Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks left for Jebba, and soon afterwards, as opportunity occurred, all officers and non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Battalion were gradually sent up there by river.

Ill-feeling between Hausas and Yorubas.

During the month of April disturbances on more than one occasion took place between the Hausas and the newly-imported Yorubas. The former were generally the aggressors; they are naturally quarrelsome, and, looking on soldiering under the white man as their monopoly, objected to men whom they regarded as intruders, both in their profession and in their adopted country. These disturbances were all quelled without any serious consequences, and all hostile feeling soon disappeared.

If properly used, the racial feeling in a battalion composed of different races is a powerful weapon in the hands of a commander, but it is one that must be used with great caution.

Draft to Niger Coast Protectorate.

About the beginning of May I was ordered by Colonel Lugard, who had come from Jebba for a short stay, to send 100 men to the Niger Coast Protectorate, in accordance with orders to that effect received from the Secretary of State, and in consequence 100 Yorubas were sent. It was naturally a great disappointment to have to transfer these men, with whose training so much trouble had been taken.

Anam expedition.

On May 3rd Major Reade, Capt. Lewis, and Lieuts. Clive and Johnson, with 100 men from the battalion under my command who had already been put through a short course of musketry, left Asaba to assist in a punitive expedition, under command of Major Festing, Royal Niger Constabulary, which had been ordered to punish the tribes in the neighbourhood of Anam, about 100 miles below Lokoja, and on the Niger. From

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897-8.

the report subsequently received from Major Festing, I consider that the behaviour of these recruits reflects great credit on their company officers, Capt. Lewis and Lieut. Johnson.

Musketry course.

During the months of April and May, rapid progress was made with the musketry and drill of the battalion. The course of musketry I instituted was an adaptation of the German course, the guiding principle of which is that the bad shot requires much more practice than the good shot, and gets it, firing many more rounds, and not being allowed to go on to another distance until he has qualified at the previous one. Company commanders who put their companies through this course are unanimously in favour of its advantages. This course was continued until July, when another for the whole force was drawn up by the Commandant.

On May 11th Colonel Lugard left Lokoja, and did not return until he passed through on his way home, towards the end of August.

Fall of the Niger.

The Niger by this time had dropped to such an extent that up to July only one steamboat on the river could travel between Jebba and Lokoja, and this one, a small launch, and canoes which took from three to five weeks to do the double journey, were the only means of communication between these places.

Reinforcements for Jebba.

On May 16th, in accordance with orders received, I despatched the whole of the Royal Artillery then present at Lokoja, and also 120 Yorubas, under command of Captain Gillespie, of the battalion under my command, by canoe to Jebba. Captain Gillespie, on arrival at Jebba, was pushed further north, to garrison certain points on the river north of Jebba.

Tornados.

The tornado season commenced in March, and from this time tornados gradually became more frequent, until in August they gave way to the heavy rains. These rains were, however, by no means incessant, a storm seldom lasting more than six hours, though while it lasted it was often very violent.

A tornado consists of a violent wind, followed by heavy rain. The effect is local, and the tornado occasionally within a few hours returns from the other direction.

These tornados were, until we were properly housed, a source of great discomfort. Papers and light articles had to be covered up, and the inmates of the tents and grass houses, which in many cases were not impervious to the tropical rain, were often compelled to pass the night cowering in some corner, covered with a waterproof, in order to keep a little dry.

Deaths.

During March and April four deaths occurred at Lokoja, all being attributable to malaria.

Lapai expedition.

Before leaving Lokoja on May 11th, Colonel Lugard told me that on the Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company desiring me to do so, I was to furnish 200 men, with a certain proportion

of Europeans, and was myself to take command of an expedition which might be required to take the field against the Emirs of Lapai and Argayeh.

On June 2nd Mr. Drew, the Acting Agent-General (Mr. Wallace, C.M.G., the Agent-General being seriously ill and absent from Lokoja), informed me that since Mr. Wallace had seen Colonel Lugard the aspect had become much more serious, that the Emirs of Lapai and Argayeh had been slave raiding, and razing towns down to the very banks of the Niger, and that, unless immediate action were taken, a blow would be dealt to British prestige, the consequences of which would be far-reaching and disastrous. He further informed me that reports led him to believe that considerable resistance would be offered, and that in his opinion the force for which Mr. Wallace originally asked Colonel Lugard would not be sufficient to cope with the opposition which might be encountered.

On these representations, and taking into consideration that any reverse would bring upon us the whole forces of Bida, whose adherents were unofficially aiding Lapai and Argayeh, I determined to increase the force to be sent from my battalion to a total of 300 men in the ranks, as well as three Maxim guns and their detachments. In addition to this the Royal Niger Constabulary placed at my disposal 60 infantry, with one Maxim, and 40 gunners, with one 9-pounder Whitworth gun and three 7-pounder mountain guns, the whole under command of Lieutenant Carroll.

Concerning the work of the expedition, a special despatch has been sent to the Secretary of State, and it will suffice here to say that, by a forced march, the enemy, consisting of some 600 horsemen and 3,000 footmen, were completely taken by surprise, and routed with considerable loss. Their camps and strongholds were destroyed, and their power completely broken, with practically no loss on our side, except from sickness.

The behaviour of my recruits was good, their volleys being perfect, and their conduct soldierlike.

On July 1st the expedition returned to Lokoja.

Sickness.

We now reached the sickliest time of the year: nine deaths among the officers and the European non-commissioned officers, whose total strength only averaged about 55, taking place at Lokoja, and on the expedition, during the six weeks which included July and embraced the end of June and commencement of August.

During July there was great mortality among the horses, but with this subject I intend to deal in a separate paragraph.

Work from July to December, 1898.

Between the months of July and December great progress was made with the drill and musketry of the battalion, and the camp and its vicinity were greatly improved. More ground was cleared, Bahama grass was planted, an extended parade ground and a

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

fair polo ground made, the range was completed as a six-section range, and firing points constructed at 500 and 600 yards. The neighbourhood of the hospital, which had been built on the space adjacent to the one on which the camp was erected, was cleared, wells were dug, and various other improvements made. The above was all done by soldier labour.

There is at present, and for long will be, much useful labour for the men of the battalion to perform, but if there were not, I should advocate work being made for them. If never called upon to perform manual labour, the West African soldier is apt "to get above himself," and if allowed to do this he soon becomes useless.

A strict rule should, however, be made that, when performing fatigues, men should always work under the direct command of their officers, or non-commissioned officers, white or black, who must invariably treat them as soldiers.

The work above mentioned was all performed without interfering with the drill or training of the men.

Inspections.

On August 11th Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks arrived from Jebba, and remained in Lokoja until August 16th, when he was unexpectedly recalled to Jebba. During his stay at Lokoja he thoroughly inspected the battalion, and also the whole system on which the business of the Station Staff Office, the Orderly Room, the Transport Department, &c., was transacted.

On August the 29th Colonel Lugard arrived at Lokoja on his way to England, and on the following day saw the battalion on parade, and expressed his very great appreciation of the soldierly appearance of the men and of their drill and smartness on parade.

Deaths of Lieutenant Keating's party.

On October 18th news reached me of the deaths of Lieutenant Keating, Corporal Gale, and fourteen native non-commissioned officers and men, at Helo Island, about 30 miles above Boussa. Lieutenant Keating, with 30 men, was sent up in July to reinforce the company under Captain Gillespie, which left Lokoja for Jebba in May. The detachment of which Lieutenant Keating was in command was stationed at Rafia, on the Niger.

The Chief of Helo Island having behaved in a manner which rendered it necessary that he should be arrested, Lieutenant Keating, with the above-mentioned party, proceeded to Helo Island to perform this duty, expecting no resistance. The party proceeded to the town, when it was suddenly fallen upon by overwhelming numbers. With difficulty a way was fought back to the beach. Here ammunition ran out. Lieutenant Keating killed the Chief with his own hand, but the party was overpowered, and, on attempting to get into their canoes, all except two were killed or drowned. These two escaped wounded to tell the tale.

The only consoling feature in this sad affair is that all died fighting, and that the men (Nupes), from all accounts which can be gathered, fought with determination and courage, until they fell at the side of their leaders.

On October 5th two companies, consisting of 222 men, were dispatched with 50 ponies to Jebba.

Readiness for active service.

During the months of October and November events in other parts of the world made it appear possible that troops might be required in Borgu, and during these months I was prepared at six hours' notice to send off another 400 fully trained and equipped men, ready in every sense to take part in a campaign.

On December 21st I left Lokoja *en route* for England, accompanied by those officers and non-commissioned officers who had completed the year in West Africa, for which they agreed to serve, and who did not wish to prolong their tour of service.

State of battalion in December, 1898.

When I left Lokoja the battalion which I handed over temporarily to Captain Crutchley was 907 strong, this number being made up of 430 Yorubas, 400 Hausas, and 77 Nupes. The majority of the Nupes can now speak a certain amount of Hausa.

Of these 907 men, 700 were trained to such an extent that I should be proud to command them anywhere, either on service or on a field day at Aldershot, where I am convinced they would drill as well as half the battalions out. The native non-commissioned officers were thoroughly capable of taking command of their sections, and of drilling them or the company.

The musketry was very fair and the fire discipline good. On several occasions companies firing volleys at ranges of 500 and 600 yards, at a target 6 ft. by 12 ft., have got over 50 per cent. of hits on the target.

During the first four months we were in Africa I held neither a commanding officer's nor an adjutant's parade, leaving everything to the company commanders, Captains Goldie-Taubman, Marsh, Blackader, Webb, Hall, Lewis, and Gillespie; and it is entirely to their capacity and energy, and to the increased interest generated by the fact that they found themselves left alone to think and act for themselves, and to the spirit of rivalry which this system of decentralization gave birth to, that I attribute the results obtained.

Expedition to Illah.

In December, at the request of the Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company, and with the permission of the Commandant, I sent Captain Marsh's company to assist the Royal Niger Constabulary in an expedition then taking place in the vicinity of Illah, which is situated on the Niger about 100 miles below Lokoja.

The Commandment of the Royal Niger Constabulary, at the termination of this expedition, spoke to me enthusiastically of the discipline and drill, as well as of the fire discipline, of this company.

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

Delay in filling vacancies.

During the last two or three months of my tour in West Africa work was impeded by the fact that vacancies caused by death and invaliding were not filled as they occurred, and after the officers whose year expired in December left West Africa, out of an establishment of 28 officers, only 13 remained in the country, and only 19 non-commissioned officers out of an establishment of 44. This staff would in no way be adequate to satisfactorily carry on necessary duties in a healthy country, but in West Africa a considerable portion of the Europeans are always on the sick list.

The native soldier becomes attached to an officer or non-commissioned officer whom he knows, but when handed over to a man whom they have never seen before, a company for some time is like a dog which has lost its master. Knowing the feeling of the men in this matter, I was especially anxious to dovetail officers who were coming out with those who were going home, so that they might for a few weeks at least work together in the same companies, and that the fresh arrivals might, if possible, take over some of the results of the old hand's experience, at the same time as they took over the arms and accounts.

The non-arrival of reliefs defeated my efforts, and was a bitter disappointment to me, as well as to the officers who had trained, and for one year lived for, their companies.

Only 60 per cent. of those who started from England in 1897 completed their year in the country, for 18 per cent. died and 22 per cent. were invalided.

Situation of the Imperial camp at Lokoja.

The camp at Lokoja is situated on the advanced slopes of a spur, which juts out from the mountain in rear of the camp, and runs down to the Niger. The hospital is on a similar spur. These spurs are drained by watercourses between and on either side of them. The site of the camp looks a particularly healthy one, and undoubtedly is the best in the vicinity of Lokoja, the view in front of the camp, both up and down the Niger, and up the Benue, is magnificent, and those to the rear and flanks are almost as beautiful.

It is difficult to conceive why a situation with so many apparent advantages is as unhealthy as is actually the case. The country round and to the north of Lokoja is covered with high grass, and with trees of the size and at the distance apart that trees usually are in an English orchard. In the neighbourhood of watercourses, in marshy ground, and generally in the country drained by the Lower Niger, the vegetation becomes dense, and the soil is covered with big trees, and impenetrable undergrowth, which absolutely binds travellers to the paths through the entangled bush.

Horses.

Not only is the valley of the Niger unhealthy for mankind, but also for horses and cattle. The African disease resulting from the bite of the tsetse fly and the Indian disease of Surra, which have similar symptoms, and give birth to a similar microbe

in the blood, are, I fully believe, both present, or, to be more accurate, I am convinced that the symptoms which prove fatal are on the Niger the result in some cases of eating rank grass, as in Surra, and in others of the bite of the tsetse fly, which carries the germs of this disease from impregnated to healthy animals. Of the 160 horses bought at Lokoja during the year I was there, not more than 60 were living when I left. I feel certain that the presence of a good veterinary surgeon would have done much to prevent this high death rate.

Horses are not bred in the immediate neighbourhood of Lokoja, and those we obtained came either from the neighbourhood of Illorin or from the country round Ibi, on the Benue. The soil in all parts of West Africa which I have traversed is extremely stony, and I am more convinced now than when I wrote for horseshoes, of the great advantage which would arise of shoeing horses on their fore feet. I would not recommend their being shod behind, as the concussion on the hind feet is less, and unshod horses get a better foothold on the rocks, which have often to be climbed.

Uniform.

The question of the uniform of the force is one into which I do not here intend to enter, except to say that, whatever the material or pattern, I consider kharki colour preferable to blue.

The rifle.

The Martini-Enfield carbines used are excellent, and well adapted, in my opinion, to the requirements of the force. The fact that they are of small bore and fire cordite, thus requiring great and constant care in cleaning, in the damp climate of West Africa, is not an unmitigated disadvantage, for as long as these rifles remain in our hands the requisite care will presumably always be bestowed on them. If, on the other hand, any should be stolen with a view to being used against us, it is equally certain that a want of proper attention will speedily render them almost useless.

Characteristics of the natives.

Before concluding, I think that a few remarks on the chief characteristics of the natives with whom I had to deal would not be out of place.

Rudyard Kipling's words "half child, half devil," applied by him to the Filipinos, apply equally to the soldiers I commanded, for they are a strange mixture of both. They seem to have absolute confidence in a white man whom they like, but they take strong likes and dislikes. They love to be taken, as it were, a little into their captain's confidence, and if this be done, and they are given a reason for a supposed hardship, they will readily bear it. They, however, very naturally like to hear facts from the white man's own lips, for they possess sufficient discernment to have but little confidence in the probity, or disinterested reasons, of their own native non-commissioned officers, who can drill them and exercise discipline, but who, if they have opportunity to do so, seldom fail to presume on their position, and to exercise extortion from those under them. Unfortunately the chance of

detection of malpractices is much decreased by the fact that the non-commissioned officer, being the better educated man, is often the interpreter through whose medium the case against himself is in the first instance heard.

For native non-commissioned officers or soldiers travelling unaccompanied by Europeans to extort blackmail is, in their eyes, a matter of course, in spite of the white man's orders and ideas as to the rights of property, which are mere foolish prejudices in the native's eyes.

The manner in which we regard slavery, moreover, tends to complicate the question in the minds of men who fail to see a difference between slaves and other property.

To sum up, the men I commanded are naturally brave, vigorous, fairly intelligent, excellent marchers, hardy, and of good physique, but they are inclined to be cruel, do not tell the truth, and are dishonest. Neither they nor any other natives of West Africa whom I have met are, in my opinion, fit for positions of trust, where constant supervision is not exercised. They require tactful, but very firm treatment.

Hausas. The Hausas are more quarrelsome than the Yorubas or Nupes, get into trouble more often, and are not so quick at picking up drill or musketry. They are more excitable and harder to keep in hand, but they are a race whose courage has been tried, and is highly spoken of by officers better able than I am to give an opinion on this point.

Yorubas. I make a great difference between the agricultural Yoruba from the neighbourhood of Ibádan and the men enlisted on the outskirts of the Yoruba county, or so-called "Bush Yorubas."

The former are physically, morally, and intellectually the better men. They are quick, intelligent, good shots, clean and neat in their appearance, and on fatigue duty are much better men than the Hausas or Nupes. Those who have seen them highly tried on service speak well of them, though opportunity has seldom occurred for putting their courage to the same test as has been done in the case of the Hausas.

Nupes. The Nupes are physically the finest men of all; they are very intelligent and shoot well. On the one occasion on which their courage has been tried under European leadership they are reported to have behaved well.

The Yorubas of Ibádan are said to be a race never conquered by another tribe, and for many years they waged a war with the Foulah Chief of Illórin, in which neither party was victorious. I have often doubted whether there really is any great difference in the fighting qualities of the different tribes who inhabit the countries near the middle Niger and the Benue, or whether the prestige which at a certain period a certain people hold is not owing to the accident of that people recently having had a leader

capable of organizing his forces, and thus leading his tribe to certain victory. After the death of such a man the tribe lives on its reputation, until another leader rises and turns the tide.

During the month of March Lieutenant Bryan was sent on a recruiting tour up the Benue, and was afterwards followed by Lieutenant Clive. These officers traversed and mapped much previously unexplored country in the neighbourhood of Bautshi, north of the Benue; they also succeeded in sending to Lokoja a considerable number of Hausa recruits and some horses. Lieutenant Bryan has submitted a most clear and interesting report on the country through which he and Lieutenant Clive passed, as well as the sketches above referred to.

Before concluding this report, which has already reached a greater length than I intended it to assume, I wish to bring to notice the excellent work done by the officers and non-commissioned officers I had the honour of commanding. I never wish to have a more capable, conscientious, and hard-working body of men under me.

My special thanks are due to my Adjutant, Captain P. S. Wilkinson, Northumberland Fusiliers; to Captain Blackader, Leicestershire Regiment; Captain Marsh, Royal West Kent Regiment; Captain M. Hall, P.W.O. West Yorkshire Regiment; Lieutenant Tomlin, P.W.O. Yorkshire Regiment; and Lieutenant A. B. Molesworth, West India Regiment; to Sergeant-Major A. F. West, Rifle Brigade; Colour-Sergeant J. R. McIntosh, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders; Colour-Sergeant J. McKenzie, Depot, Seaforth Highlanders; Colour-Sergeant W. Tyson, Royal Lancaster Regiment; Colour-Sergeant J. Humphries, West Riding Regiment; and Colour-Sergeant E. H. Dinham, Gloucestershire Regiment; also to Lieutenants Bryan, Lincolnshire Regiment, and A. P. Clive, Grenadier Guards, who executed an excellent combined sketch of unexplored country north of the Benue, which was supplemented by a well-drawn-out and useful report by Lieutenant Bryan. My thanks are, moreover, due to Major Reade for the manner in which, as I have already stated, he acted for me whilst at Ibádan, and to Captain Gillespie and Lieut. Rigby, R.M.L.I., who, under trying circumstances, did good work on the Niger, north of Jebba.

T. D. PILCHER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
West African Frontier Force.

Naval and Military Club, London,
March 9, 1899.

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

COLONEL LUGARD to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Haslemere,

11th April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the report which, in accordance with your instructions, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald to submit on the raising of the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force, and the work done by the Battalion.

2. In doing so I desire to endorse most heartily the praise given by Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald to the officers and British non-commissioned officers of his battalion. The march from Ibádan to Jebba—166 miles—in ten days (picking up a hundred good recruits on the way) without any trouble or friction on the road, or difficulty regarding supplies, speaks for the tact and forethought of the Commandant and his officers. The method and order with which from the first all the correspondence and orderly room work was conducted, and the infrequency of severe punishment (though discipline was fully maintained) prove on the one hand that indefatigable personal effort was expended by all European ranks, and on the other that the men understood their orders and worked well for their officers.

3. These results were due to the zeal and ability of Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald, the Commandant, and of his Adjutant, Captain Booth, in particular, supported by such excellent officers as Major Morland, Captains Baker, Somerset, and Fremantle, and Lieutenant and Quartermaster O'Malley. It is due to the memory of the late Captain Baker and the Hon. R. Somerset that I should record the great personal sorrow which we all felt at the deaths of these—two of the very best and most popular officers in the force—and the great loss which the battalion sustained. Colonel FitzGerald has described the "Farm" of which Captain Somerset took charge, and the boon which it proved to his brother officers and to all white men at Jebba. It was no light task to undertake this in addition to his very onerous work as Adjutant and President of the Mess, which he had brought to a state as complete, comfortable, and orderly in all its accounts, &c., as though instituted in a civilized country.

Captain and Adjutant Booth was promoted Staff Officer on the Headquarter Staff, and a more efficient and better Staff Officer could not be found.

Lieutenant O'Malley, as Quartermaster, was efficient and indefatigable, and he has shown great care of Government property and accuracy in the difficult conditions inherent in the post he volunteered to fill.

Colour-Sergeant Bradley (2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers) has been continuously employed as Military Clerk on the Headquarter Staff, where he has worked hard and well; and, in addition to the non-commissioned officers mentioned in Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald's report, Armourer-Sergeant Chapman (Durham Light Infantry), Colour-Sergeant Barton (Royal Lancaster Regiment), and Colour-Sergeant Wingate (Rifle Brigade) have been mentioned to me by Colonel Willcocks as having done good service.

4. My former report contained some remarks upon the work done by the 1st Battalion and the other Corps and Departments of the West African Frontier Force. As a whole, it would be difficult to find a more zealous, efficient, and cheery set of officers than those who have raised and brought to its present state of efficiency the West African Frontier Force. Selected from different regiments of the army, they brought with them the best traditions of every corps, but the influence which has welded this material, however excellent, into a single effective force full of *esprit de corps*, and in which differences and quarrels (even in a climate and conditions like West Africa) were unknown, was that of Colonel Willcocks, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has for many months past been officiating as commandant. The rapidity with which the officers housed themselves and the British non-commissioned officers (precedence being given to the latter) with mere grass and poles from the jungle, and the equally rapid progress made in drill and musketry, form a record upon which comment from me is needless. The results were seen when I had to order a company of the 2nd Battalion at midnight to march 26 miles, crossing swollen streams in the rains, a company which had barely emerged from the recruit stage, and had but finished their recruits' musketry a day or two before. Their Captain (G. Fremantle), though suffering from fever, was on the march within two hours of the receipt of the order, and the distance was covered in 24 hours. Emulation and rivalry, without demur at the hardship of the task, was the response to the call I had made. Again, in the well planned and executed little campaign by a company of the 1st Battalion under Major Morland to punish the murderers of Lieutenant Keating and his party, the Battalion proved what its training had done for it. It was undoubtedly due to the exceptional rapidity and excellency of all arrangements made in this expedition that so few casualties occurred, and the results were so decisive. For his success in this difficult task, and his able command of the 1st Battalion since the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher, Colonel Willcocks has strongly recommended the inclusion of Major Morland's name among those submitted for special consideration.

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897-8.

I fully endorse Colonel's Willcocks's recommendation, for I had myself selected Major Morland for the difficult post of Commandant in Eastern Borgu and the relief of the garrisons held by the French—a task he carried out most ably and without friction.

5. Portions of both battalions and of the artillery have had other opportunities of proving their efficiency in the field; on all occasions with most satisfactory results, as I have had occasion from time to time to report to you.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD.

REPORT by Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. FITZGERALD, Durham Light Infantry, of the work done during 1897 and 1898, in raising and organising the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force.

---

1. On the 24th November, 1897, I took up the appointment of Commandant of the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force, which it had been decided to raise, and until my departure for West Africa, I was employed at the Colonial Office in organising the battalion.

Start for West Africa.

2. On the 5th February, 1898, Headquarters and three companies (consisting of 15 officers and 19 non-commissioned officers) embarked for West Africa, and reached Lagos Roads on the 3rd March, where orders were received to disembark, and proceed inland to Ibadan.

March to Ibadan.

3. After laying in two months' supply of provisions for my party, I proceeded on the 10th March from Lagos up the lagoon in launches to Epé, and thence by route march through Jebu Odé, Aha, Elikou, Odo Anakekri, to Ibadan. Here I took over the surplus Yoruba recruits from the detachment 1st Battalion West African Frontier Force, and commenced recruiting for the battalion. A few days later the detachment 1st Battalion left Ibadan for Lokoja *viâ* Lagos.

Oyo.

4. On the 23rd March I proceeded to Oyo (the nearest place in telegraphic communication with Lagos), where I received orders from Colonel Lugard, C.B., D.S.O., to be in readiness to march at short notice either to Lokoja or Jebba.

5. I returned at once to Ibadan, and dispatched Major Morland and Lieutenant Buxton to report on the roads towards Jebba as far as the Yoruba-Illorin boundary, and I directed Captain Hon. R. Somerset and Lieutenant Pope Hennessy to proceed as far as Kabba in the direction of Lokoja with the same object.

Despatch officers on reconnaissance duty.

I would here mention that part of the country traversed by Captain Hon. R. Somerset's party had not previously been explored. He submitted a most clear and interesting report on the country passed through, and received the thanks of the Commissioner and Commandant for the "excellence of his reconnaissance." Captain Somerset's report has been forwarded to the Director of Intelligence, War Office.

Inspection by His Excellency the Governor of Lagos.

6. On the 7th April the recruits were inspected by His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. McCallum, C.M.G., R.E., who expressed on parade his appreciation of the turn-out of the men (strength on parade, 23 Europeans, 444 natives), which were formed into three companies, as follows :—

"A" or Captain Hon. R. Somerset's Company.
"B" „ Guy Fremantle's „
"C" „ P. G. Rigby's „

During our stay at Ibadan recruits came in at the rate of about 60 or 70 a week, of which, perhaps, 50 per cent. were rejected.

Preparations for the march.

7. Whilst waiting for orders, I laid in a supply of yam flour for the men, as I was informed that, whichever route I should be ordered to take, the country could not feed the force I should have with me. I also bought horses for the officers and British non-commissioned officers to ride on the march, and had picked men from each company put through a short course of musketry.

Desertions.

8. The news that we were to leave for the Niger led to a good many desertions, which it was impossible to prevent. The men had been allowed to live in the town, and, although I had put a stop to this as regards the recruits enlisted after our arrival, I was very strongly advised against forcing those already enlisted away from the town and into the barracks. Also the men were frightened by the rumours of trouble with Illorin, started by the men of the detachment 1st Battalion who had been marched two or three marches towards Jebba and then brought back to Ibadan. The desertions during this period numbered 95 in all.

The march to Jebba.

9. On the 27th April orders were received from Colonel Lugard, C.B., D.S.O., by telegraph from Jebba, to march with all Government stores, as quickly as possible to Jebba, and on the 29th, the Battalion (30 Europeans and 461 natives strong) left Ibadan, leaving behind Captain Eden and 3 non-commissioned officers (British) to form a recruiting depôt, and passing through Evoko-Oyo-Ajawa, reached Ogbomosho on the 2nd May.

Here the battalion was halted for a day, and the men marched through the town, and the Head men interviewed. 105 good recruits were obtained here.

[*Note.*—Ogbomosho was the Yoruba war camp against Illorin. and I strongly recommend it as a recruiting depôt for Yorubas, in preference to Ibadan. My reasons for coming to this opinion (together with a sketch of the site selected for the barracks) were submitted by me on arrival at Jebba to the Commissioner and Commandant.]

The march was continued next day, passing Buda Egba, Obanisawa, and round the town of Illorin. [I had received orders that the battalion was not to enter Illorin, and that I was to interview the Emir with reference to the cutting of the telegraph wire and the safety of the telegraph station outside the city wall.] With a small escort I entered the city and had a long and satisfactory interview with the Emir. I then marched the battalion to the banks of the Oyan River, where we halted for the night. Thence the march was continued viâ Ayetoro and Oshado to Jebba, which was reached on the 9th May, and the men and horses crossed over in canoes to the island the same day. Total distance marched, 166 miles, in 10 days' marching.

Although no opposition was expected, the march was conducted throughout as if in an enemy's country, as a training for the men, and I think the distances covered each day speaks well for their powers of marching.

A Frontier Force Order was published by the Commissioner and Commandant, conveying "his appreciation of the rapid and successful manner in which the march from Ibadan was conducted."

Increase of establishment.

10. On arrival at Jebba we were joined by Major Lowry Cole and the remaining officers and British non-commissioned officers of the battalion. They had come from England, viâ Forcados, and up the River Niger.

The making of the camp on Jebba island.

11. Jebba Island at this time consisted only of the Niger Company's factory, and the native village. As the rainy season was coming on, our first work was to house ourselves and the men and horses. Daily working parties were sent out across the river to cut grass and wood, while others cleared and prepared the ground. It was a time of incessant trial for everyone. Parades could not be remitted, as it was possible that we might be required for active service at any moment, so morning and evening saw us on parade; the rest of the day was spent by the men in building their lines and clearing the parade grounds, and by the Europeans in supervising and directing the labour of the men and the hired labour.

Life at Jebba.

12. Our life at Jebba for the first four months consisted of recruiting, drilling, clearing ground, and building. These months

saw a great change in the regiment, and also in the appearance of the island. In June the depôt company joined from Ibadan with 60 good Yoruba recruits, and a fourth company of Yorubas was formed. By the end of August two companies of Hausas had been enlisted, and the battalion consisted of six companies. Three companies had gone through a recruits' course of musketry, and a fourth was being put through. Lines for the men, good grass huts for the officers and British non-commissioned officers, hospitals (native and European), an orderly room, an officers' mess, a non-commissioned officers' mess, and stables for the horses had all been built. Two parade grounds had been cleared and levelled, and we were beginning to play cricket and to hold gymkhanas, with races for the men. A two-section musketry range had been constructed and was in daily use, and the island had been cleaned to a certain extent.

Health of the Europeans.

13. In spite of all the exposure and hard work, this period was not an unhealthy one for the officers and British non-commissioned officers. Two deaths had occurred—Lieutenant Headlam, drowned, and Corporal Wintle from fever. The latter arrived from Lokoja in a bad state of health and died shortly after. There had been no cases of invaliding.

Changes amongst the officers and British non-commissioned officers.

14. But the regiment was short of several officers and British non-commissioned officers from other causes. Major Lowry Cole was on the frontier as commandant of S. Borgu; Major Morland commanded in E. Borgu; Captain and Adjutant Booth had been posted to the Head-Quarter Staff, and Captain Hon. R. Somerset had been appointed Adjutant in his place. Captain Lynch was away recruiting up the Benué, and Captain Welch, Lieutenants Glossop, Blair, Mangles, and Porter, and several British non-commissioned officers were serving in Borgu.

Record of movements.

15. On the 1st of August a permanent camp was formed on the left bank of the river, consisting of three batteries of Artillery and "B" Company of the Battalion and the R.E. Company.

On the 6th August, about 10 p.m., news was received that a disturbance had occurred amongst the troops of the Royal Niger Constabulary at Kiama, and "B" Company was ordered to proceed at once to Fort Goldie to prevent its spreading. At 1 a.m. on the 7th August Captain Fremantle, Lieutenant Buxton, Colour-Sergeant Moran and 60 rank and file with 20 rounds per man left by route march and arrived at Fort Goldie (26 miles) at 1 p.m. the same day. On this march two rivers had to be crossed. It was dark and there were no canoes on the near banks. Lieutenant Buxton swam both rivers and procured canoes, in which the men and horses were transferred across. The remainder of "B" Company followed the next day, and relieved, in accordance with orders, the detachments at Fort Goldie, Kiama, Leaba, Yangbassa, and Boussa, hitherto held by the Royal Niger Constabulary. "B" Company returned to

NIGER. WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE. 1897–8.

Jebba in January 1899, having done good service in the expedition to punish the murderers of Lieutenant Keating and his party.

In September "A" Company proceeded on special service to Illorin, under Captain Somerset, and I was informed by the Commandant that he carried out a delicate mission with great tact, and returned the beginning of November, and on the 25th November "A" Company, under Captain Welch, proceeded up river for duty in E. Borgu.

In October "D" Company proceeded up river under Captain Eden to reinforce the troops in E. Borgu.

On the 5th December Lieutenant Robertson with an escort proceeded to Ogbomosho and returned on the 20th December with 125 recruits.

On the 7th January 1899, Lieutenant Pope-Hennessy returned from the Benué with 70 Hausa recruits, enlisted by Captain Lynch.

On the 12th December Major Lowry Cole returned from duty in S. Borgu and assumed command of the battalion. (I had left a few days previously for England, to take up the appointment of second in command Durham Light Infantry.)

On the 7th February 1899, the regiment commenced its move to Lokoja in relief of the 1st Battalion.

Annual inspection.

16. The annual inspection of the battalion took place at Jebba in January, Colonel Willcocks, C.M.G., D.S.O., the officiating Commissioner and Commandant, expressed himself pleased with everything he saw.

Presentation of Royal Humane Society's medal to Corporal Taylor.

17. At a general parade of the West African Frontier Force on the 23rd January 1899 at Jebba, Corporal W. Taylor, of the 2nd Battalion, was presented with the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society, for gallantry on the night of the 12th May 1898, when he dived into the River Niger and brought to the surface the body of Lieutenant T. E. Headlam, the river at the time swarming with crocodiles.

Strength of battalion.

18. When I left Jebba the battalion was about 800 strong, and, now that the Hausa recruits from the Benué enlisted by Captain Lynch have arrived, it should be 1,000 strong.

A 7th company was formed in February.

The men.

19. There is a great difference between Hausas "born slaves, the sons of slaves" and those born free. The latter only should be enlisted. The best Yorubas come from the war camps of Ogbomosho and Ikerun; Ibadan men are also good. The men from Oyo (the capital of Yorubaland) are no good as soldiers. Both Hausas and Yorubas are imitative and learn very quickly They also forget quickly. They are wonderfully amenable to discipline, but they can be easily made discontented and mutinous by an officer who does not listen patiently to what they have got

to say. They are quite satisfied with their officer's decision, however adverse, once they have had their say. If shouted at and bullied they are apt to become cowed and stupid. For this reason I think all officers and British non-commissioned officers require supervision and careful tuition on first arrival in Nigeria; otherwise the results will not be lasting, and men will be unjustly punished through misunderstandings on both sides.

System.

20. My great aim was to create a regimental feeling in the battalion, and to teach the men that they belonged to the same battalion. It must be remembered that Hausas and Yorubas are long-standing rivals, and if they are to live peaceably together in the lines, and to fight side by side, they must be associated together on all possible occasions. From the very beginning, therefore, though only squad drill could be done, all the companies paraded together as a battalion, and a general supervision was exercised over them. This was especially necessary if any uniformity of system of training was to be obtained, when it is considered that the officers and non-commissioned officers came from so many different regiments. As the Company commanders got to know their men, and I was satisfied with their methods of handling them, this supervision was relaxed, and I then told them that I should judge them by the results they obtained. Officers and non-commissioned officers once posted to companies were kept as much as possible with their companies, and even with their sections or squads, but, owing to the exigencies of the climate *i.e.*, sickness, they were (except Company commanders) perforce interchangeable. It had this advantage, however, that the natives got to know all the white men, and they in turn had experience of both Haussa and Yoruba squads. The battalion interpreters attended every parade and all orders were carefully explained to the men, and they were told to go to their officers if there was anything they did not understand.

Musketry instruction.

21. A two-section range was built at Jebba by the labour of the men. Pending the completion of this range the men were exercised at floating targets on the river. These targets were moored at 100 and 200 yards and afterwards at unknown distances. As the impact of each shot on the water was so plainly marked, the men improved very rapidly, and the task of teaching the men to shoot (which I had expected to be a difficult one) was by this means made an easy one. It is an ideal way of teaching recruits and improving the shooting of third-class shots. As soon as the range was finished, the companies were put through the recruits' course laid down in F.F. Orders.

Sanitary arrangements.

22. The early education of natives in sanitary matters leaves much to be desired. As the health of the Europeans depended so much on the Island being kept clean, floating latrines were built at the river's edge and the natives coerced into using them. While not pretending that Jebba Island is yet clean, "Soldier

Town" was a model in this respect when I left. The difference between my first weekly kit inspection and my last was most marked.

Water supply.

23. The preserving the health of the Europeans of the battalion naturally occupied much of my thoughts. A pure water supply was a great difficulty. The drinking water was fetched from the centre of the stream above the Island, and boiled and filtered, but even then it soon became impregnated with germs, and was with difficulty kept pure. Under regimental arrangements a soda-water machine had been brought out (the only one, I believe, in West Africa). This was, of course, too heavy to be marched up from Lagos, and a considerable delay occurred in its coming up the river. Once started, however, my troubles about the drinking water were at an end. The soda water was sold at a nominal sum. The water was filtered and boiled under the supervision of an officer.

Regimental farm.

24. In order to ensure a good supply of fresh meat, a regimental farm and poultry yard was started shortly after our arrival at Jebba. A big yard was fenced in, and a deserted Nupe village enclosed, and the houses used as cattle sheds and the granaries filled with fodder and Guinea corn. The results were most marked. The beef and mutton were both excellent. Sheep doubled their weight in a short time by careful feeding, and the mutton was equal to the "grain fed" mutton of any Indian mutton club. The meat latterly was sold to all corps in the station, the profit being credited to Government. The farm was entirely managed by Captain Hon. R. Somerset, who gave up every moment his other duties permitted to it.

Messing arrangements.

25. Although I knew we were liable to be split up in many detachments, I decided before leaving England on starting an officers' mess and a non-commissioned officers' mess, and made arrangements accordingly. From the day we landed in Africa (at headquarters) all the officers messed together, and all the non-commissioned officers messed together. By having only these two messes, instead of company messes, we were able to keep down prices by the absence of competition, and the officers and non-commissioned officers were kept cheery and made comfortable, which is half the battle of health in West Africa. A complete kit was brought out for each company, but until it was necessary men did not dine alone; moreover, a man who did his work would have had no time to think of housekeeping, and if he had left it to his servant his health would have suffered.

Uniform.

26. Before leaving Jebba I was asked for my views on the future uniform of the W.A.F.F. and I submitted two sketches, one showing the undress and the other the full dress I proposed. The former consisted of a khaki cotton blouse and pants which was made into full dress by the addition of a red Zouave jacket. The objection that cotton was too cold was met by the proposal to issue a flannel shirt. All accoutrements were of brown leather,

pouches to be done away with, and cartridges carried in the belt, and in the head dress (as is done by the French native troops) a red tarbouch with a tassel of the regimental colour, and a kammerbund of the same colour completed the equipment.

27. Before concluding this report I wish to bring to notice the excellent work done by the officers and British non-commissioned officers I had the honour of commanding. I was indeed fortunate in having such a capable, hardworking, cheery body of men under me.

Conclusion.

My special thanks are due to my Adjutants, Captain A. W. Booth, Northumberland Fusiliers, whose promotion to the Staff was a great loss to the regiment, and the late Captain Hon. R. Somerset, Grenadier Guards, whose work was unceasing, and his place will be very hard to fill; and to Captain Guy Fremantle, Coldstream Guards. These officers have already been mentioned in the "London Gazette."

Also to the late Captain A. W. Baker, Durham Light Infantry, who did excellent work recruiting in Kishi and in the training of his company; Captain Lynch, South Lancashire Regiment, whose knowledge of Hausa is unique and who brought us many Hausa recruits; Lieutenant H. M. Blair, Seaforth Highlanders, Assistant Adjutant; Lieutenant L. H. R. Pope-Hennessy, Oxford Light Infantry; Lieutenant R. H. Buxton, Norfolk Regiment; Lieutenant and Acting Quartermaster C. O'Malley, 3rd Middlesex Regiment; to Sergeant-Major F. Walker, Manchester Regiment; O.R. Sergeant C. Thomas, South Wales Borderers; Colour-Sergeant J. C. Heafield, Durham Light Infantry; Sergeant Blair, Northumberland Fusiliers; Corporal W. Munro, Seaforth Highlanders; and Corporal W. Taylor, Scots Guards.

H. S. FITZGERALD, Lieutenant-Colonel,
West African Frontier Force.

Aldershot,
31st March 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1–3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

No. 240.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 213.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-8.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
209	Grenada	1896
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 240.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 213.)

GOVERNOR R. A. STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
9th August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for 1897.

Mr. W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G., administered the Government up to the 24th May, when he left on being appointed to the Governorship of the Falkland Islands, and the Honourable Major E. H. Peacock, Commanding the Troops, took charge of the Island till my arrival, when I assumed the Government on the 7th June.

The condition of the Colony has been on the whole flourishing. The seasons have been fairly good with ample rainfall, and the large increase to the garrison and employment of labour in the Public Works have conduced to the general prosperity.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in the Island with a heartiness that was to be expected from the known loyalty of the St. Helenians. Further allusions to this will be made under the head of "Social" in the Report.

At first sight the financial statement might appear unsatisfactory, but on analysis it will be seen that the actual normal expenditure is somewhat under the income, and much has been done for the improvement of the Island.

561*—75—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

ST. HELENA 1897.

The difficulties in establishing any profitable industry have not yet been overcome, but the matter has still my earnest endeavours, and negotiations are still pending regarding fibre, fish, and minor undertakings.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the year was £8,802 13*s.* 11*d.*, and the Expenditure was £13,004 5*s.* 11*d.*, showing an excess of payments over receipts of £4,201 12*s.* 0*d.*, but this is not an accurate statement of the financial position, for the Revenue was normal, whereas £4,395 of the Expenditure was for Extraordinary Works such as the new water works, advances for timber from America, &c. The amount of actual ordinary Expenditure stands at £8,608 which is under the Revenue, and the Revenue itself is somewhat lower than in past years owing to a falling off in the Postal receipts on account of sale of stamps. I anticipate an increase of Customs Revenue with the strengthening of the garrison which has taken place.

Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets are £21,821 6*s.* 2*d.* and Liabilities £20,818 13*s.* 3*d.*, showing a credit balance of £1,002 12*s.* 11*d.*

The Parliamentary Grant of 1871–2 of £5,758 is not included in the Liabilities.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

The Export trade of the Island is practically nil, being confined to a small business in potatoes, which during the year amounted to about 1,117 bags, value £679, the best year since 1894. To the United Kingdom the Exports, exclusive of £3,666 in specie, were of the value of £648, consisting of skins and wool.

The Imports during 1897 amounted to £34,365 being £3,415 more than the previous year. Judging from the appearance of the shops and the increase of the garrison, and also from the fact that home remittances by shopkeepers by means of Treasury Bills were greatly in excess of the previous year, *viz.*, £18,178 against £12,755, I am justified in assuming that trade has been brisk.

Shipping.

There has been a slight increase of 11 in the number of ships that have called and traded. The number of those which anchored was 147. Those which hove to and traded with the licensed traders, 174.

The following ships of Her Majesty's Navy visited the Island during the year :—

8th April	... ...	H.M.S. "Philomel."
9th „	... ...	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
29th „	... ...	H.M.S. "Philomel."
12th May	... ...	Transport "Dunera."
26th „	... ...	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
29th June	... ...	Transport "Dilwara."
18th October	... ...	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
1st December	... ...	Transport "Avoca."

AGRICULTURE.

The year has on the whole been a prosperous one, with abundance of rain. The hay crop was fair, and the potatoes plentiful and comparatively free from blight. I obtained from Las Palmas, through the liberality of Mr. T. Millar, junior, of that place, some sacks of seed potatoes of the Palmera variety and they have succeeded very well. This variety is a most prolific cropper. I had sent some during the previous year to the Island but they were over-carried to the Cape and were in a bad condition when returned, so the experiment proved a failure, but the second attempt was very successful, and from those grown at Plantation I have now a quantity of seed tubers for distribution.

The advent of the West India Troops has created a demand for yams, not the St. Helena yam, which is an arum, but what is here called the Coast yam (*Dioscorea alata*), a creeper with very large tuber which used to be grown here formerly for sale to the coolie ships. As the number of these vessels has fallen off the cultivation was dropped, and now I have had to import seed tubers from Sierra Leone to be distributed to farmers at cost price.

The Tagasaste (*Cytisus proliferus albus*) from the Canary Islands, which I introduced in 1896, has succeeded in some parts of the Island, but the bushes are as yet too small to cut for fodder; it was very highly spoken of by Dr. Morris, C.M.G., of Kew, and also by some Spanish Naval Officers who visited St. Helena, but I notice that Professor Wallace in his "Farming Industries of Cape Colony" states that it is hurtful to horses.

I found on my arrival that the Agricultural Society was flagging and had not had a meeting since my departure from the Island in July 1896, but it is now reviving and is of great use in discussing matters relating to farming.

The question of manures is now a subject of discussion. The guano deposits of the Island are nearly, if not quite, worked out. On Mr. Deason's farm the native carbonate of lime is used, but a cheap and effective manure has yet to be invented, as the high

ST. HELENA, 1897.

rates of freight preclude the importation of chemical preparations from England. Fish manure, which is so much used in Europe, would be the cheapest and best for this Island, but until a fishery on scientific methods is started the wealth of food and fertilizing matter will still, as heretofore, remain in the depths of the sea which surrounds us.

Small growers are, I think, turning their attention more to market gardening, as the West Indian portion of the increased garrison consume more vegetables.

INDUSTRIES.

I regret to say no progress has been made in the establishment of a fishery, which is a subject I have had at heart for some years, but I do not despair of something in this direction being yet accomplished, if not on a large scale for export, still on a smaller footing for home consumption. It is now becoming a matter for serious consideration what we are to do in the future for supplying fish for the poorer inhabitants who hitherto lived upon the economical food provided by the waters round their Island. Since the arrival of the West India Troops the demand for fish has been great and prices have doubled. Mackerel which used to sell from 2*d.* to 6*d.* a dozen are now a penny a piece, and an equal rise has taken place as regards albicore. The fishermen do not see the force of working longer hours to keep the price of fish down ; it is to their advantage to have short hours and high prices.

The scientific European mode of fishing has been so successful at the Cape and Natal that I hope to see it tried here some day, providing cheap food for the poor, manure for the farmers, and an export trade of salt fish to South America. I have suggested to the Officer Commanding the Troops that we should revive the old custom of the past century and have one or two regimental fishing boats ; if this were done, and a sufficient supply for the garrison obtained, prices would once more come down to their former level. He is quite willing to try the experiment, but at present the getting of a suitable boat is the difficulty.

A concession was granted during the year to a syndicate of four gentlemen who were disposed to try the preparation of fibre from the Furcrœa aloe ; I however recommended them to send one of their number to visit the plantations and factories in Natal and Mauritius before commencing operations here ; this was done and Mr. J. Brown of Las Palmas, who was the member despatched, was favourably inclined to the scheme and stated that he would visit this Island after making enquiries as to machinery &c., but nothing more has been done as yet.

One of the ladies here, Mrs. Jackson, has been trying to start a lace-making industry (similar to that which has been so

successful in Madagascar) with a view to giving employment to the women and girls of the place, a very laudable project, and I hope to be able to state in my next annual report that she has been successful in her endeavours. There are so many idle women and children in the Island whose husbands and fathers are absent in South Africa that a movement of this kind is highly desirable. Emigration has brought about this state of affairs and, though it relieved the Island a few years ago, the evil effects which I anticipated are now felt, for labour is scarce and wages have risen. I am now paying labourers on the Public Works 2*s.* 6*d.* a day instead of 2*s.*, and have had twice to assist Messrs. Solomon & Co., Admiralty Coal Contractors, with men to coal men-of-war on emergency. This pressure, however, may be but temporary as we are laying down new water works, building houses, and the Royal Engineers are preparing new barracks for the increased garrison.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the early part of the year the following Extraordinary Works were completed at a cost of £700, *viz.*, the construction of a flushing dam at the head of the town for the purpose of cleansing the Run, which is an open sewer passing down the whole length of the town to the sea; this excellent work, designed and carried out by Mr. Grey-Wilson, is of the highest value, especially now that we have so many troops quartered in Jamestown. The flushing used to take place about every other day, but finding it capable of daily use the water is now discharged every morning at 6 o'clock. It was practically a finished work before my arrival; all I have done to it is to replace clay puddling on one side of the basin, which was leaking, by concrete, which the estimate allowed.

A new crane had been erected on the wharf which comes into the works of the year, but as yet it has not been used on account of the proximity of partially submerged rocks which prevent the approach of boats; these required very careful removal and, acting under the advice of Captain D. B. Thomson of the 28th Bombay Pioneers (who was here on a visit), I indented on the Crown Agents for 50lbs. of dynamite in commercial cartridges, and on arrival the work of chipping them to pieces by small charges was commenced but was stopped as the roller season set in early. It is now in hand.

A sum of £2,400 having been sanctioned for the new scheme of water works arranged for by Mr. Grey-Wilson, an accurate survey of the line, with working plans and sections, was made for me by Captain Thomson, the Royal Engineer Officers on the Island being fully occupied on the new barracks for the troops. Between Jamestown and the intake at Drummer's Point, a distance of 1,700 yards, there was a considerable amount of earth-work and masonry which I think had not sufficiently been taken

into consideration in estimating the cost; however, I anticipate that the work will contrast favourably with similar operations elsewhere as the cost of supervision is small, though that of labour has risen, and I expect it to be completed by the end of the current year if indents from home are promptly complied with.

The estimated quantity of 6-inch pipes was landed *ex* "Luke Bruce" on the 27th February and the work of laying was taken in hand.

The ordinary Public Works comprised extensive repairs to the Gaol almost amounting to rebuilding; the roof and wood work had entirely to be renewed, the former being white ant eaten to such an extent that it is a wonder it had not collapsed.

A store house for mineral oil was also completed on the Wharf during the year, and the future warehousing of such oils in Jamestown was prohibited.

During the year we imported a very fine lot of American red cypress wood which is the best timber for resisting the white ant. Our consignment of 152,695ft. was shipped by Messrs. Lucas E. Moore & Co., of New Orleans, and is of exceptionally fine quality both in grain and size.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HOSPITAL.

The health of the Island continued good, the death rate was only 11·29 per 1,000, whereas the birth rate was 32·07 per 1,000. The death of the Officer Commanding the Troops, Major E. H. Peacock of the Leicestershire Regiment, occurred on the 16th of July and cast a great gloom over the Island, as he was deservedly popular. The population at the end of the year was estimated to be about 3,897.

EDUCATION.

The total number of children taught in the four Government Schools, the two Benevolent Society's, three Hussey Charity's, the Military, and the Baptist's Sunday Schools was 764, an increase of 14 over the previous year. Much yet remains to be done in this direction as many of the children in outlying parts are somewhat neglected, but when the new Education Ordinance becomes law the rules regarding compulsory education will be more stringently carried out.

CRIME AND GAOL.

There has been very little crime during the year under report and less than the previous year under all heads; for instance, the total number of offences reported to the police was 101 against 171 in the previous year; only two cases were commited to the

Supreme Court. The Gaol was almost empty during the year, which allowed of extensive repairs, almost amounting to rebuilding, being carried out; the daily average in prison was 1·3.

LEGISLATION.

There were no Ordinances of any importance passed during the year, and the only Government regulations calling for notice were, making it compulsory to stow mineral oil on the Wharf outside of Jamestown; and a Proclamation prohibiting the landing of cattle from South Africa on account of the prevalence of Rinderpest there.

SOCIAL.

The great function of the year was, of course, Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, which was enthusiastically celebrated on the day. There was a parade of the troops in the garrison, when sixty guns were fired with a *feu de joie* between each twenty guns. All the Masonic and other institutions were present with their insignia and banners, and the day passed with sports, and in the evening fireworks, and a Ball given by myself at the Castle. Mr. W. A. Thorpe broached several hogsheads of ale at his own expense for all comers to drink Her Majesty's health, and a few days after about 2,000 of the poorer classes were entertained at tea on Francis Plain. The permanent memorials of the occasion were a fountain in the Public Gardens given by myself, and the surplus funds in the hands of the Jubilee committee were devoted to the purchase of two ambulances for carrying sick people to Hospital which have proved to be of great comfort and utility. An illuminated address was also forwarded to Her Majesty and graciously acknowledged by Her.

SCIENTIFIC AND METEOROLOGICAL.

In connection with the Public Gardens a Museum has been started, there being a suitable building available in the grounds, and I hope in time to have a complete collection of all the fish, marine mollusca, &c., as also mineralogical and botanical specimens. At present for want of funds we can move but very slowly. My own duties are so numerous that I cannot give the time and attention I should like, but I have given lessons in taxidermy to some of the islanders, and specimens are being collected by degrees. Captain D. B. Thomson, during his six months stay in the Island, collected a valuable series of the indigenous ferns, which are now arranged in glass cases. Specimens of the Island flora are being arranged, and several consignments of living plants have been forwarded to Kew. There has been a serious botanical loss to the Island in the destruction by a storm of the only existing tree of the *Psiadia rotundifolia*, a now extinct species. This tree which grew in the

ST. HELENA, 1897.

middle of a field at Longwood was carefully fenced in by Mr. Deason, and many attempts have been made to propagate it by seeds, cuttings, grafting on allied stocks, &c., but all in vain, and it is now, with the valuable ebony tree, *Melhania melanoxylon*, a thing of the past in the indigenous flora of the Island. A very curious fan-leaved palm with six massive branches radiating from the main stem at about six feet from the ground, which grew close to the house at Plantation, was also blown down and destroyed by high winds. The branches, which were about nine inches in diameter, were cut off by me and planted in various situations; I never expected any good results from the operation, but after some months two of them, planted in moist ground, have thrown out young leaves, after having apparently dried up.

The meteorological phenomena of the year have been quite abnormal. It is rarely that thunder and lightning occur, and hail is quite unknown, but on the 21st of October, at 9 p.m., lightning was observed with rumbling of thunder throughout the night; on the following day the thunder between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. was continuous, one very loud peal frightened my horses as I was driving down Ladder Hill at 11 o'clock, about the same time heavy showers of hail fell in the neighbourhood of Woodlands; towards midnight of the 22nd the wind increased from 1½ lbs. pressure to the square foot to 8 lbs., which continued till midnight of the 23rd, and with the high wind the storm passed away.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALE,

Governor.

The Right Honourable J. Chamberlain, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 265.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 240.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9046-33.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
236	Straits Settlements	1897
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 265.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 240.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

19th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1898. It is rather longer than previous reports, having been written on the lines laid down in your circular dated 31st January 1899.

I am glad to be able to report that there has been considerable improvement in the condition of the Colony, owing to the increase of the garrison and the extensive works now being carried on by the Colonial and Imperial Governments, which have given employment to the inhabitants to such an extent that boys are being paid full labourers' wages and even women and children help.

More money has circulated and consequently trade has been brisk.

Probably some reaction may take place several years hence when the works are finished and wages fall, but it is to be hoped that permanent benefit will accrue to the more thrifty ones of the working population.

3265*—75—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

ST. HELENA, 1898.

The seasons have also been favourable to agriculture, and though the supply of live stock has fallen short of the demand for meat for the troops, so as to compel the military authorities to import cattle for a while, I notice a fair number of young beasts coming on for future requirements.

FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year was £9,152 12*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase over the previous year of £350. The expenditure was £12,349 3*s.* 1*d.*, being £655 less than in 1897. Still the expenditure was £3,196 11*s.* 0*d.* over receipts. This expenditure was, however, extraordinary and not likely to occur again.

Additional grants were sanctioned during the year for rebuilding two houses, for the formation of a volunteer corps, and for the importation of a fine Spanish donkey for stud purposes. The first instalment of £500 was also made towards the liquidation of an advance of £5,158 made to the Colony by the Imperial Government in 1871–72, and an increase in the salaries of several of the inadequately paid officials was also sanctioned during the year. All these items raised the expenditure above the estimate.

I anticipate, however, a decided improvement in the current year, with a substantial surplus.

The Customs revenue and sale of stamps are rising, and expenditure, I trust, will be kept strictly within the sanctioned limits. I give the total Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	9,161	7,873
1895	9,762	8,063
1896	9,160	8,872
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,152	12,349

Assets and Liabilities.

The liabilities exceed the assets this year by £2,486 15*s.* 5*d.* In 1897 we had a surplus (after deducting a transfer of £1,120 19*s.* 6*d.* to the Savings Bank fund) of £4,460, but the following extraordinary expenditure to 31st December 1898 more than swallowed up the amount, viz. :—

	£
Waterworks	2,272
Timber and oil	2,037
Spring water	286
Two new houses	726
Sharpshooters	260
Purchase of "Maldivia"	391
Stallion donkey	67
First instalment Imperial Government loan	500
Total ...	£6,539

Public Debt.

There is no public debt, but a Parliamentary grant of £5,158 made without interest in 1871–72, is now being paid off by instalments of £500 a year.

Currency.

The same as in the United Kingdom.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Poor Relief Board for last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	958	939
1895	930	919
1896	851	863
1897	826	820
1898	863	850

Public Market Committee.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	90	89
1895	89	93
1896	83	82
1897	112	110
1898	107	109

Debts of Municipal Boards.

In 1883 the Poor Relief Board borrowed from the Colonial Government the sum of £800 for the construction of a new poor house and lunatic asylum, to be repaid in 16 annual instalments; the last instalment was paid on 31st December 1898.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The imports greatly increased during the year under report, being to the value of £62,985, or nearly double those of the preceding year. The increase of the garrison and the extensive works in fortifications and barracks now in progress have given a great impetus to trade.

The imports consist principally of building material, beer and spirits, general goods, and food-stuffs (the latter chiefly from the Colonies), sugar, rice, &c., live stock for the use of the troops, the Island supply of cattle being insufficient.

The most notable increase occurs under the headings: oxen, cement, drapery and dry goods, grain, leather, boots, &c., preserved meats, oilman's stores, wines, and sundries. As there is much competition in cheap goods, I notice that German manufactures are creeping in, as yet, I think, only in fancy articles, but some foreign glass imported seemed to me to be of as good quality as what we have in store of English manufacture, though about half the price.

The exports continue very low, even lower than in the previous year, and amounted to only £4,391, including £3,816 in specie. These exports consist chiefly of potatoes.

I give the details of imports and exports for the past five years :—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	18,994	7,988	4,795	31,777
1895 ...	22,263	8,478	3,003	33,744
1896 ...	21,233	9,587	130	30,950
1897 ...	25,262	7,161	1,942	34,365
1898 ...	50,744	12,241	—	62,985

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Total.
	£	£	£
*1894 ...	4,280	772	5,052
*1895 ...	4,205	109	4,314
*1896 ...	4,012	727	4,739
*1897 ...	4,314	679	4,993
*1898 ...	3,816	575	4,391

£

* Including specie 3,875 in 1894.
" " 3,980 " 1895.
" " 3,993 " 1896.
" " 6,663 " 1897.
" " 3,746 " 1898.

ST. HELENA, 1898.

MINES, MANUFACTORIES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines of any description. The Island is devoid of metallic deposits of any consequence. The manganese ores which are obtainable are not of sufficient quality to pay for export, the percentage of manganese dioxide being only 63·19 (worth 52*s.* 6*d.* per ton delivered), which is lower than what manufacturers of chlorine would purchase.

Limestone is found of excellent quality for building purposes, but it has not been made much use of, for, what with the cost of fuel for burning and the difficulties of carriage, it has been found cheaper to import lime from England. I, however, intend to try some experiments in this direction, for the quality of the lime is so good that when some years ago the commander of one of Her Majesty's ships of war was allowed to open fire on an old wall built in the 17th century he made very little impression on it.

I am more sanguine, however, about an industry which is much needed in this Island, that is, coarse pottery-bricks, tiles, and pots of various kinds. There is a dark blue tenacious clay which has hitherto been only used for puddling in engineering works, but which I first used for road metalling, after being burnt. I then tried to make flower pots, but the first attempts cracked in firing, though well burnt and of good colour. I have now succeeded, by using an addition of fine sand in the clay, and am about to build a proper kiln for baking a number of pots at a time.

I am glad to be able to report progress in the manufacture of lace, to which I alluded last year, and great credit is due to Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Arthur for their energy under extreme difficulties. Mrs. Jackson, struck with the beauty of the Madagascar lace which had been started by the wife of an English Missionary, conceived the idea of a similar industry in St. Helena; she was ignorant of the method of working, but obtained a lace pillow and bobbins from an old worker in Buckingham—I will quote Mrs. Jackson's own words—"Even then without instructions the lace-making was at a standstill—I tried vainly to interest many in the Island until I mentioned the matter to Mrs. Arthur, who took a great interest in my scheme and readily entered into work to discover the different stitches of lace; we toiled on with varying success until she got a book on Torchon lace making; this unravelled the difficulty, and we were able to set to work almost immediately to teach others." I have on several occasions inspected Mrs. Jackson's class, she and Mrs. Arthur have about 20 girls between them, and the progress made is astonishing; many of the pupils are young children, and they all exhibit great keenness and dexterity in their work.

Fisheries.

I wish I could give a better account of these; want of capital and above all want of energy prevent the Islanders from undertaking what would be their most valuable industry if they would but see it, but old habits die hard in St. Helena, and high wages on the military works have tempted many fishermen from their former avocation; recently fish was only to be had in the markets at double and treble the price it commanded formerly, and the supply even at these prices was limited; there is an abundance of fish in the sea, sportsmen go out and in a few hours return with large catches of albicore and cavally, and, with systematic fishing and fish curing a very profitable industry might be maintained. I have for some years gone into the subject, and I know that salted cavally (*Caraux dentex*) commands a ready sale in South America, where under the name of the Cape Verde cod (*Bacalhae de Cabo Verde*) it is preferred to the Canadian cod. But, apart from the export trade, I have been urging the people here to cure fish for home consumption. The West Indian soldiers are great consumers of salt fish, and their canteen has to import it at a rate of about 3½*d.* a pound; the Island-cured cavally could be sold at a good profit at 2*d.* a pound, as large quantities could be taken during the season. Trammel nets have been tried with some success. Commander Gurney, R.N., of H.M.S. "Widgeon," used one daily in the harbour, catching enough fish to supply his crew. Mr. Robert Bruce of the Colonial Secretariat got a net out from England, and in his first experiment he caught about forty fish, including one hammer-headed shark, which I think spoiled sport and somewhat damaged his net. These experiments are, however, a move in the right direction, and the day may come when more extensive operations with nets will be carried out with success.

Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The year under report has been favourable for agriculture, and owing to abundance of rain the pasturage has been good, but the local stock owners have not been able to keep pace with the increased demand owing to the strengthening of the garrison, and the military authorities have had to import cattle from England. The ravages of rinderpest in South Africa prevented our getting any from the Cape.

It is too early yet to report on the results of the proposed Botanical Garden at Maldivia. The old Botanical Garden, which is to be made over to the War Office for barrack extension, has been worn out from neglect.

ST. HELENA, 1898.

Nurseries of young trees are kept up at Plantation and the plants distributed to applicants. The Cinchona plantation, which was started in Sir Charles Elliott's time on the range below Diana's Peak, is still to be traced; the trees have run wild and thrive, but the cultivation here would not be profitable at the ruling prices for quinine.

Forestry.

This requires encouragement amongst the landowners. Mr. Grey-Wilson did much good in this way, and ample testimony exists of his efforts in the many fine young trees that are growing up in the vicinity of Plantation, especially with various kinds of cedar and eucalyptus. I have for some time tried to redeem the barrenness of Halftree Hollow, through which the main road from Jamestown to the south runs, but the rock is too near the surface for most trees, and some hundreds of young Cape yews planted have, with few exceptions, withered away. Some olives planted by me in 1896 survive, but the most hopeful species is a kind of evergreen of the fig tribe which in Jamestown grows to an enormous size. One tree of this on Halftree Hollow, planted by me in 1896, is now in a most flourishing condition, and I am about to make an avenue of the same.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There have been no grants of land made during the year under report. All the best land in the Island is in private hands or leased by Government. The value is reckoned about £5 an acre for commutation purposes.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships that anchored was 147, exactly the same as in the previous year. Those that hove to and traded with licensed boatmen numbered 192; vessels sighted, 390.

	Tonnage.
Men-of-war	40,926
Steamers	104,737
Sailing vessels	120,467
Total tonnage ...	266,130

The following nationalities were represented:—

American	7
Belgian	1
British	101
Dutch	2
French	4
German	6
Hawaiian	1
Italian	4
Norwegian	17
Russian	1
Spanish	1
Swedish	2

The statistics for the last five years are:—

	Tons.
1894	280,634
1895	279,717
1896	220,857
1897	228,569
1898	266,130

The whalers have for the past two years entirely deserted this port, which is a matter of regret, for they used to spend much money in the Island. It is probable that the sperm whale fishery is not so profitable as it was, and that the ships employed in this industry have gone further north in search of the right or whalebone whale.

LEGISLATION.

Only two Ordinances of special interest were passed during the year, viz.:—

No. 1, of 14th February 1898, "An Ordinance to empower the Governor in Council to fix the rates of postage."

No. 3, of 15th June 1898, "An Ordinance to provide for the management of the lunatic asylum."

Nos. 2, 4, and 5 were to provide for service and supplementary expenditure.

EDUCATION.

There are four Government schools, four charitable, a military, and a Baptist Sunday School, the total number of scholars being 790, an increase of 26 over last year. In none of them can more than a good plain English education be imparted, and a good high-class school is much wanted. There are no technical schools as yet. In the town school of the Hussey Charity there is a carpenters' class, and the gardener at Government House Plantation has a class of boys learning horticulture.

GOVERNMENT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

The civil hospital is supported by the Government, aided by fees from paying patients. The hospital is clean, commodious, and airy, well supplied with good water, and admirably managed, under the supervision of the Colonial Surgeon, by a lady superintendent (Miss Williams) and two nurses. 186 cases were treated, with 15 deaths; the greatest number of cases of any particular disease were respiratory organs 29, deaths 5; local injuries 28, deaths 2. No cases of zymotic disease occurred in the hospital, either amongst patients or officers; the daily average treated was 8·84.

Asylums.

The lunatic asylum is not supported by Government but by the ratepayers through the Poor Relief Board. There are only seven patients, of whom three are maniacal, three quiet, and one melancholic. The Colonial Surgeon visited three times a week; but an Ordinance has been passed during the year for the better management and supervision by visitors.

Poor House.

This is also supported and managed by the Poor Relief Board, who levy a rate of about 20*s.* per £100 per annum on all real property in the Island, assessed in the aggregate at about £94,900.

Savings Bank.

This Government institution is very popular, there being no banks in the Island. The number of depositors during the year was 174. The total amount of deposits, £3,000 19*s.*; of withdrawals, £2,240 19*s.* The total amount at credit of depositors at the end of the year was £17,003 11*s.* 4*d.*; of invested funds, £15,299 13*s.* 5*d.*

PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

The public gardens, which are situated near the Castle Square and St. James's Church, are being much appreciated by the residents since they have been improved. There yet remains much to be done, and the want of a competent gardener greatly hinders progress, but I hope in a short time to add to the turf which has been established in parts, and to increase the supply of flowers. The three gates are locked at nine o'clock, at which time the reading-room closes, and now, instead of being the haunt of noisy rough lads and persons of doubtful character, it is much resorted to by those who wish to have a quiet time with a book under the trees, the seats near the fountain being generally occupied, and by numbers of children, for whose benefit I wish to increase the lawns.

Three gold fish, presented by Mr. A. Thorpe, were put into the basin of the fountain, and they have bred to such an extent that we have now many for distribution.

Both the Union and Castle Line Companies have kindly consented to bring out free of charge anything that may be required for the gardens and the museum. The latter is progressing favourably, and I have been able to get the assistance of Mr. Henry Thorpe, an enthusiastic student in natural history, to take the post of honorary curator.

Mr. Rowland Ward, of Piccadilly, presented us, the other day, with a collection of stuffed animals, including a fine South American jaguar and seven species of monkey and other valuable specimens, which are being arranged with tropical scenery in a large glass case, and which will not fail to be a source of great attraction to the St. Helenians, whose island fauna is destitute of any of the larger mammalia in a wild state.

There being no Government funds devoted to the support of the undertaking we are mainly dependent on the assistance of friends.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is a very small one, consisting only of a sergeant, four constables (now raised to five), and one special constable.

Prisons.

There is one goal in Jamestown, not large as gaols go, but quite enough for requirements; it has been thoroughly repaired

during the year, as the whole of the timber was eaten by white ants; there are three wards into which open eight cells. The sexes are on separate floors. The sanitary arrangements are good, and there has been no sickness or a death during the year. The male prisoners are generally employed on outdoor work under the Colonial Engineer.

Criminal.

There is very little serious crime in the Island; only one case of housebreaking was brought before the Supreme Court. Of minor offences 143 were reported to the police, 136 apprehended or summoned, with 120 summary convictions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population according to the census taken in 1891 was 4,116, and on the 31st December last year was estimated at 4,543. There were 53 immigrants during the year, but 119 emigrants, principally to the Cape.

The births were 24·2 per 1,000; the deaths 18·2 per 1,000, which is much higher than in the previous year which was only 11·29 per 1,000. The year was wet and cold and unfavourable to old people, of whom 45 (or more than one-half the total mortality) died at the following ages :—

Between 50 and 60	10
„ 60 „ 70	13
„ 70 „ 80	12
Over 80	10
Total	45
Children under 10	17
The rest	21
Total deaths	83

Public Health.

On the whole the public health was not so good as in the preceding year; there was a good deal of slight ailment with

dysenteric symptoms, which probably affected young children and old people more seriously; still there was no serious sickness or epidemic of any kind.

Sanitation.

Sanitary arrangements in the country leave much room for improvement, but in Jamestown matters are improving daily. When the new waterworks are opened the sanitary regulations regarding drainage will be more rigorously imposed. A new system of drainage for the town is highly desirable, for the existing drains are a series of patchwork of pipes and culverts of various dimensions which prevent perfect flushing. The great open sewer, called the "Run," which goes through the town has been concreted throughout from the flushing-dam to the sea, and a large volume of water is discharged down it every morning, sweeping it clean.

Climate.

There were no meteorological phenomena to report during the year. The rainfall varies very much in different parts of the Island, the yearly average being:—

Mount Pleasant	36·06	inches.
St. Matthew's Vicarage ...	33·950	„
Woodlands	23·63	„
Jamestown	4·82	„

The prevailing wind is the S.E. trade, which blew steadily E.S.E., S.E., and S.S.E. for 332 days during the year; there were only nine days calm.

The temperature on the highlands varied from a maximum of 76 to a minimum of 46, the mean average being 60. In Jamestown the maximum was 80, the minimum 66.

Postal and Telephone.

Post.

There is no inland post, residents in the country go down to meet the mails or send to the post office for their letters. The sale of stamps to collectors continued to fall off, being only £96 11*s.* 1*d.* as against £253 9*s.* 10*d.* in the previous year, owing to the pattern of the stamps being a common one and not in favour with collectors. I recommended the return of the old pattern from the Crown Agents, and since then the demand has been considerable, £337 worth having been sold during five months of the current year.

ST. HELENA, 1898.

At the close of the year the new penny postage and the improved parcel rates came into force.

Telephone.

There is a system of telephonic communication connecting East, West, and Central points with Jamestown. The lines are constructed and managed by the Royal Engineers. In the first instance the Colony gave a grant of £400 and an annual subsidy which is now reduced to £45, and £30 is granted by Lloyd's. The private messages are few and amounted during the year to only £13 14*s.* 4*d.* The revenue was £109 1*s.* 10*d.*, the expenditure £210. The lines are, however, kept up solely for military and official purposes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief event of the year was the increase in the garrison by the arrival of the head-quarters of the 3rd West India Regiment, and the commencing of military works which gave employment to all in need of it. Emigration, to which the people in late years have been driven, will, I think, now be checked. I have been always averse to encouraging the steady flow of our able bodied young men to the Cape, foreseeing the difficulties that would arise in time and cripple any future industry or engineering work; we are now suffering from a scarcity of labour, especially skilled labour such as carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, &c. Our public works have been sadly hindered by the want of carpenters. Wages have increased and even young lads have been getting the wages of adults. In spite of these difficulties, our Colonial public works (excluding fortifications and barracks executed by the Royal Engineers from Imperial funds) consisted of:—

1. The completion of the laying of the six-inch main of the new waterworks from Drummer's Point to the wharf, a distance of over 2 miles.

2. The completion of the gaol, which required a new roof and new wood-work throughout.

3. The masonry of two new houses on the site of old ones belonging to the Government. These houses are being built to meet the increased demand for accommodation. The example of Government has been followed by one or two other house proprietors, and it is to be hoped that visitors from England may be tempted to come out during the English winter (the St. Helenian summer). This Island, with its salubrious climate, superior in some respects to Madeira and the Canary Islands, would prove a valuable health resort if it were better known. Wages are

moderate and living not more expensive than in England. From its geographical position St. Helena might be supposed to have a tropical climate, and so it would have but for the cool south-east trade wind which blows nearly all the year round. The summer temperature in the country seldom rises above 70° to 75°. Englishmen go about with small caps on their heads, yet sunstroke is extremely rare. There is no doubt it is an excellent climate for Europeans, but there are not many openings for white labour; wages are low according to English ideas, 2*s*. 6*d*. a day for labourers and 5*s*. per diem for a skilled carpenter.

The only openings for the investment of capital are in the preparation of fibre from the furcræa aloe which grows wild in abundance, and fish curing.

Coffee of an excellent quality is produced but the culturable area is limited; still a great deal more could be done in this direction as much land fit for coffee is used for pasturage.

Taking the people as a whole (I speak not of the cultivated, but of the working classes), they are to be favourably compared with the English agricultural population; with few exceptions all can read and write, and the language is spoken with greater purity than in many of our home districts. There is a good deal of overcrowding in many of their cottages; still in most of them there are to be found neatness and a love of art in the way of pictures, and nearly all are musical. Some of the small houses I have visited have been very neatly kept. As a rule I think they are a happy and contented people with little crime among them and much kindness in helping each other. Strangers are greatly impressed with the general civility shown to them by old and young.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALE,

Governor.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

No. 239.

ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 211.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & CO., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & CO., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046–7.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
212	St. Vincent	1896
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica...	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 239.

ST. LUCIA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 211.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,

31st July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit Administrator King-Harman's despatch of the 9th inst., covering his Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Lucia for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

Government House, St. Lucia,

9th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the St. Lucia Blue Book for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

C. A. KING-HARMAN,

Administrator

480*—75—8/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

ST. LUCIA. 1897.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
The total Revenue for the year 1897 was ...	60,639
The total Expenditure	56,743
Leaving a balance to credit of the Colony of	£3,896

The Revenue and Expenditure for the five preceding years is shewn as follows :—

—	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	48,297	57,598	55,971	48,564	55,331
Expenditure...	54,934	49,271	53,766	57,579	56,060

The year 1897 opened with a debit balance amounting to £5,088 8*s.* 0*d.*, which on the 31st December was reduced to £3,114 15*s.* 8*d.* The actual excess of Revenue over Expenditure for the year was £3,896 4*s.* 3*d.*, but as £1,922 11*s.* 11*d.* of this sum was appropriated towards the closing of the Accounts for Materials and Stores, which had hitherto figured in the Balance Sheet as an Asset of the Colony, only £1,973 12*s.* 4*d.* was available to be used towards the liquidation of the floating debt.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1897, was £191,979 11*s.* 0*d.* The debt was reduced during the year by £10,300. Included in the total amount of the debt is a sum of £17,000 raised by the Colony on behalf of the Castries Town Board. The interest and Sinking Fund are paid by the Board. There is also included in the debt a sum of £20,800 which was raised for Immigration purposes. Certain export duties on sugar, cocoa, and molasses, and import duties on tobacco are appropriated by law towards the payment of interest and sinking fund on this loan. The credit of the Colony is pledged for all loans.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Hereunder is shown in tabular form the value of each class of Imports during the years 1896, 1897 :—

Year.	Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drinks, and Narcotics.	Class II. Raw Materials.			Class III. Manufactured Articles.			Class IV. Coin and Bullion.	For Army and Navy, Colonial Goverment and the Church.	Total.
		Textile.	Metal.	Other.	Textile.	Metal.	Other.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	58,729	—	1	51,431	19,172	5,609	24,131	404	31,057	190,534
1897	65,655	—	9	66,709	25,176	26,687	50,617	10,400	—	245,253

The articles imported for the Army and Navy, and for the Colonial Government and the Church, were classified according to their nature under their proper headings in the 1897 returns.

The following will shew the chief articles which contributed towards the increases in the 1897 figures over those of 1896 under the several heads of classification :—

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
CLASS I.		£		£
Ale, Beer, &c.	2,243 doz. 29,218 gals.	2,620	1,792 doz. 37,629 gals.	2,964
Butter	22,650 lbs.	1,055	32,312 lbs.	1,377
Oleomargarine	82,195 „	1,605	98,099 „	1,830
Flour	14,011 brls.	14,269	14,320 brls.	17,764
Medicines	—	674	—	1,438
Rice	560,634 lbs.	2,388	577,466 lbs.	3,216
Whiskey	2,471 gals.	877	3,152 gals.	1,127
Wines	—	2,187	—	2,806
Tobacco, manufactured	10,445 lbs.	841	14,785 lbs.	1,035
„ unmanufactured	34,691 „	676	50,226 „	919
CLASS II.				
Coal	47,307 tons	40,601	63,902 tons	53,809
Manure	4,618 bags	4,501	9,220 bags	5,323
Wood, White Pine ...	432,766 ft.	1,792	539,810 ft.	2,158
„ Pitch Pine ...	149,052 „	842	196,187 „	988

IMPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
CLASS III.		£		£
Cottons and Woollens...	—	17,672	—	23,308
Ropes and Cordage ...	—	141	—	485
Arms and Ammunition	—	81	—	19,135
Iron, Galvanized ...	—	770	—	982
Industrial Machinery, &c.	—	1,520	—	1,677
Sewing Machines ...	—	113	—	223
Boots and Shoes ...	—	3,469	—	4,591
Cement	—	2,722	—	3,843
Earthenware	—	764	—	1,386
Furniture	—	479	—	989
Glassware	—	475	—	613
Haberdashery	—	6,855	—	12,478
Hats and Bonnets ...	—	1,089	—	1,861
Musical Instruments ...	—	85	—	336
Perfumery	—	388	—	506
CLASS IV.				
Specie	—	404	—	10,400

The following Return gives the value of the Import trade with different countries in 1896 and 1897 :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Barbados.	Other B. W. I.	French W. I.	Spanish W. I.	France.	U.S. America.	Other Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	101,938	2,409	19,365	3,404	1,957	4,128	6,930	45,543	4,513
1897	119,355	2,704	39,943	8,992	2,688	1,845	8,899	57,478	2,341

The value of the Exports as classified in the returns for 1896 and 1897 is given in the following table :—

Year.	Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drinks, and Narcotics.	Class II. Raw Materials.			Class III. Manufactured.			Class IV. Coin and Bullion.	Military Stores.	Total
		Textile.	Metal.	Other.	Textile.	Metal.	Other.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	81,070	—	—	51,102	44	178	498	3,040	362	136,294
1897	80,911	—	—	139,650	82	209	448	8,474	670	230,444

The quantities as well as the value of the chief Exports in 1896 and 1897 are shewn in the next return under the several heads of classification :—

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
CLASS I.		£		£
Cocoa	1,136,843 lbs.	15,403	953,700 lbs.	17,158
Fruit	—	380	—	177
Preserves	—	110	—	47
Spices	—	50	—	110
Rum	1,280 gals.	92	10,107 gals.	589
Molasses	105,000 „	1,444	135,120 „	1,858
Sugar Muscovado ...	1,005,608 lbs.	5,860	1,025,360 lbs.	3,950
„ Usine	6,843,920 „	56,096	7,617,332 „	53,498
CLASS II.				
Coal, Bunker	44,816 tons	42,575	78,130 tons	76,177
Hides, Cow	615 cwts.	517	714 cwts.	600
Turtle-shell	240 lbs.	170	150 lbs.	106
Wood, Cedar	4,018 c.ft.	402	130 c.ft.	13
„ Fuel	2,329 cds.	1,048	2,381 cds.	1,131
„ Logwood ...	1,901 tons	4,285	165 tons	248
„ Pimento sticks...	34,749	505	22,250	227
„ Satin	4,020 c.ft.	603	390 c.ft.	59

EXPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
CLASS III.		£		£
Brooms	1,325 doz.	33	1,038 doz.	26
Charcoal	144 bags	8	210 bags	12
CLASS IV.				
Specie	—	3,040	—	8,474

The countries to which the products of the Colony were exported in 1896 and 1897, and the values of such Exports, are shewn in the following Return :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Barbados.	Other B. W. I.	French W. I.	France.	U.S. America.	Other Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	21,707	829	1,730	240	2,044	13,727	46,480	38
1897	10,710	342	1,767	107	1,752	9,074	57,719	60

SHIPPING.

The shipping of this Port is steadily increasing, and during the year under report 620 trading steamships entered and cleared, as compared with 435 during the previous year. Besides these trading vessels 24 ships of war visited the Port, as against 13 in 1896.

Of these ships of war, 6 were British, 4 American, 2 Dutch, 1 Austrian, and 1 Russian.

Of the trading steam vessels, 501 were British, 58 French, 19 Belgian, 16 Norwegian, 15 German, 7 American, 2 Dutch, 1 Venezuelan, and 1 Brazilian.

Besides the steam vessels, 327 sailing vessels entered, and 325 cleared, as against 287 and 293 in 1896.

The total tonnage entered and cleared during 1897 amounted to 1,780,560 tons, as compared with 1,190,790 tons in 1896.

Not only was 1897 conspicuous for the large number of vessels which entered the Port, but also for the increased tonnage size of the vessels generally. Two of the largest mercantile marine vessels afloat entered the harbour, and were berthed and coaled at the wharves.

The following Tables will be found interesting :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	435	574,244	16,081	287	20,827	1,931	722	595,071	18,012
1897	620	869,739	20,462	327	21,020	2,169	947	890,759	22,631

Year.	British Steam Vessels.			British Sailing Vessels.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	357	493,713	12,809	245	10,674	1,595	602	504,387	14,404
1897	501	761,773	16,740	279	10,566	1,788	780	772,339	18,528

Year.	Foreign Steam Vessels.			Foreign Sailing Vessels.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	78	80,531	3,272	42	10,153	336	120	90,684	3,608
1897	119	107,966	3,722	48	10,454	381	167	118,420	4,103

SHIPPING—*continued.*

Year.	Steamers with Cargoes.			Sailing Vessels with Cargoes.			Total Vessels with Cargoes.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	185	235,313	8,149	225	16,385	1,474	413	251,698	9,623
1897	210	283,310	8,476	258	16,910	1,660	268	200,220	10,136

Year.	Steamers in Ballast.			Sailing Vessels in Ballast.			Total Vessels in Ballast.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	250	338,931	7,932	62	4,442	457	312	443,373	8,389
1897	410	586,429	11,986	69	4,110	809	479	590,539	12,795

SAVINGS BANK.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The amount at credit of the Savings Bank Fund at 31st December, 1896, was	9,809	13	10
The deposits during the year amounted to ...	8,497	13	7
The interest credited to depositors was	236	15	3
Total ...	£18,544	2	8
The withdrawals during the year amounted to ...	8,161	15	11
The amount due depositors at 31st December, 1897, was	£10,382	6	9

This is the largest balance that has been shown since the Savings Bank was established. The number of depositors at 31st December, 1897, was 1,294, as against 1,277 at the close

of 1896. The following investments on account of the funds of the Bank were held at 31st December, 1897, the same as at the close of the previous year :—

	£
Canadian Government 3½ per cent.	2,000
New South Wales Government 3½ per cent. ...	2,000
Western Australia 3 per cent.	1,500
Government of Trinidad 3 per cent.	1,500
Government of Barbados 4 per cent.	1,000
On deposit at Colonial Bank 3 per cent. ...	1,000
Total	£9,000

The sum of £286 0*s.* 6*d.* was received during the year under report for interest on the investments.

POST OFFICE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The revenue derived from postal transactions during the year amounted to	1,879	8	5½
The expenditure for the upkeep of the Department, and the charges for conveyance of mails to England, America, and Canada, was	1,139	7	7
There was also paid to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for a local service on the leeward coast...	1,000	0	0
Total expenditure	£2,139	7	7

The number of letters, postcards, newspapers, book-packets, &c. sent and received from abroad during the year was as follows :—

Sent Abroad.	Received from Abroad.	
Letters and Post-cards, 72,718.	Letters and Post-cards, 85,574.	Newspapers, Book-packets, &c. 50,896.

3,250 registered letters were dealt with, and no loss has been reported.

The number of steam vessels that brought mails to the Colony was 231, and the calling of steamers for coal on their way to New York afforded 247 opportunities for the despatch of mails from the Island.

The money orders issued on foreign places amounted to £4,891 6*s.* 4*d.*, and the amount received from abroad was £978 8*s.* 7*d.* The Colony's share of commission on these orders was £82 12*s.* 3*d.*

By the parcel post service 1,445 parcels were received, yielding in customs dues £201 2*s.* 8*d.* to the credit of the general revenue. The number of parcels despatched from the office was 459.

The return of inland postal transactions shew that 44,801 letters and postcards and 11,475 newspapers, book-packets, &c. were exchanged between the central office in Castries and the four sub-offices in the country districts.

Civil Establishment.

His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., who had been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, on 25th January 1897, in succession to Sir Charles Bruce, arrived in St. Lucia and assumed the Administration of the Government on 3rd August.

Mr. C. A. King-Harman was appointed Administrator on 29th January 1897, and arrived in the Colony and assumed the Administration on 16th November.

From the beginning of the year up to the arrival of the Governor on 3rd August the Government was admininistered by Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Dale, officer commanding the troops, being senior member of the Executive Council. From the departure of the Governor on the 20th August to the arrival of Mr. King-Harman on the 16th November, Mr. P. J. K. Ferguson, the Attorney-General, being then the senior member of the Executive Council, assumed the Administration.

Legislation.

The year was not fruitful in legislation, only seven Ordinances being passed, the principal of which were :—

An Ordinance to amend the Immigration Ordinance 1891, Amendment Ordinance 1896, whereby Indian immigrants who have completed a continuous residence of ten years in the Colony, and Indian immigrants who are destitute or disabled, and the wives and children of such immigrants may, in certain cases, be provided with a return passage to India.

An Ordinance to authorize the raising of a loan of five thousand pounds, for the purpose of making up a deficiency in the general revenue of the Colony for the year 1896.

This Ordinance was not presented for Her Majesty's allowance, a surplus of revenue over expenditure at the close of the year being available towards the reduction of the floating debt of the Colony.

An Ordinance to continue the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance 1896.

Under this Ordinance the additional duty of fifteen (15) *per centum* on all duties leviable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1895, coal only being excepted, was continued for another year.

Military Expenditure.

The Imperial expenditure during the year for military purposes amounted to £31,815, as against £43,549 for the previous year.

The Colonial expenditure in the nature of allowances in lieu of exemption from customs duties amounted to £2,236, as against £2,020 in 1896.

Vital Statistics.

The births and deaths of the year numbered respectively 1,824 and 1,163, thus yielding a natural increase to the population of 661.

This increase raised the population on 31st December 1897 to 47,332 (22,995 males and 24,337 females), being equal to 203 persons to the square mile.

Exclusive of still-births the birth-rate of the Colony was 3·57 per cent. against 3·84 in 1896, 4·04 in 1895, and 4·11 in 1894.

The birth-rate has therefore been steadily decreasing, a circumstance due in all probability to rural depression and the voluntary expatriation of numbers of the virile population. During the days of agricultural prosperity the rate averaged 4·28, rising in one year to 4·76.

The year under report shows no improvement in respect to the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births, the former averaging 60·25 and the latter 39·75 of the total.

The net death-rate was 2·15 per cent. In 1896 it was 2·17, in 1895 2·24, and in 1894 2·09. The great majority of the deaths were due to zymotic diseases, and two persons are reported as having died from the bite of the fer-de-lance, now becoming rare in the Island.

Criminal Statistics.

In 1897 there were three Sessions of the Royal Court for the trial of indictable offences; 17 persons were tried, of whom 5 were acquitted and 12 convicted. In 1896 the number of convictions was 7.

The returns from the Magistrates' Courts shew a decrease in the number of summary convictions, the number in 1897 being 1,013 as against 1,096 in the previous year.

The Attorney-General reports that there has been in the last four years a gradual and steady diminution in the number of convictions for summary offences, but that the number is still large, a fact due, in his opinion, to the influx from other Islands of persons, chiefly of the lower classes, attracted to St. Lucia by the increased coaling trade and by the employment to be obtained on military works and in the garrison.

PRISON AND CRIME.

The prison population in 1897 shewed an increase of 83 admissions as compared with the previous year, and the convictions for the year were 15 in excess of those in 1896.

The admissions to the Royal Gaol were :—

1897.		1896.	
Males ...	481	Males ...	395
Females...	226	Females...	229
Total ...	707	Total ...	624

The convictions in 1897 amounted to 544 as against 529 in 1896, but there is little serious crime in the Colony, the returns shewing that only 10 sentences were passed for periods in excess of 12 months.

The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 51·48, and the largest number confined in the prison at one time was 73.

The general health of the prisoners was good, the daily average on the sick list being 0·89, the lowest number on record. There was one death during the year from chronic diarrhœa, aggravated, according to the Medical Officer's report, by mental depression.

Corporal punishment was administered on three occasions, one by order of the Royal Court and two for prison offences.

IMMIGRATION.

The Protector of Immigrants reports that the number of adult Indian immigrants under indenture in the Colony on 31st December 1897 was 124, namely, 85 males and 39 females. Six births occurred during the year and one death.

The health of the immigrants is reported to be good, despite the unseasonable weather that prevailed during a great part of the year; the predominant maladies of malarial fever and malignant ulcers have been treated by the Colonial Surgeon and his assistant, Doctor Galgey, with excellent results, by the employment of thymol in the one case and iodoform in the other. The immigrants appear to have been on the whole contented and peaceable throughout the year, and a sum of £25 5*s.* 4*d.* was remitted by them to their relatives in India.

The Immigration Fund shewed a balance to credit on 31st December of £1,840 11*s.* 7*d.*, the receipts being principally derived from export duties levied on sugar (4*d.* per 100 lbs.), cocoa (1*s.* 6*d.* per bag) and molasses (1*s.* per puncheon), from an import duty of 1*s.* per lb. on unmanufactured tobacco, and from indenture fees. The expenses borne by the fund were principally on account of interest and Sinking Fund on loans amounting to £2,952; bounties paid to time-expired coolies, £62, and salary of Emigration Agent, Calcutta, £89 8*s.* 0*d.*

EDUCATION.

Primary.

Thirty-four primary schools were open during the year 1897; the number of children on roll was 4,447; the average attendance was 2,577, and the Government grant-in-aid amounted to £2,620 13*s.* 9*d.* Of the 34 schools, 3 were managed by the Government, 2 by the Anglican Church, 1 by the Wesleyan, 4 by the East Indian Mission, and 24 by the Roman Catholic priesthood. In the previous year, 1896, 3 Government schools were closed, but the number on the roll was increased in 1897 by 265 and the average attendance by 261. These figures shew that there has been greater regularity among the children attending school during the year under report. The number presented for examination was 419 more than in the preceding year, and the increase in the number of passes was 581. The numbers in both cases are the highest ever recorded in St. Lucia.

The cost to the Government per head of the children at school was £1 0*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £1 3*s.* 1*d.* in 1896.

Secondary.

In 1890 St. Mary's College was established by the Vicar General, the Reverend Father Tapon, with the object of supplying education of a higher standard, and in the following year a grant of £200 was made by the Government from the General Revenue of the Colony in support of this school.

This grant has since been annually renewed, and, in addition, 10 scholarships each of the value of £6 per annum have been established by the Government in order to enable boys from the primary schools to enter the College, and to profit by the superior instruction for a period of five years. The College may therefore be considered to be assisted by the Government to the extent of £260 per annum.

The College, which is divided into three classes, was annually examined by Masters from Harrison College, Barbados, up to the year 1895, since which date no examination has been held; but boys from the 1st or most advanced class have been sent up for the Cambridge Local Examination.

In 1895 two boys were presented for this examination and both passed, one with honours.

In 1896 seven were presented and all passed, three with honours.

In 1897 eleven were presented, all passed, four obtaining honours.

The annual examination of the two lower classes will be resumed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

In carrying out the ordinary recurrent repairs to Public Buildings a sum of £795 11*s.* 11*d.* was expended, plus £106 16*s.* 11*d.* for repairs and renewal of Government furniture.

On dredging in the Castries Harbour £467 13*s.* 3*d.* was expended.

On the maintenance and repair of the public roads £3,496 19*s.* 6*d.* was expended.

Land was purchased for a new cemetery at Choc, the total area acquired being about 10 acres. The work of enclosing, fencing, draining, and the construction of roads was commenced, and an amount of £683 12*s.* 6*d.* spent up to 31st December.

Petty repairs were executed on all the jetties, two light timber bridges for the rivers at Soufriere were begun, and a water tank for the village of Gros Islet was put in order for £123 0*s.* 6*d.*

During the year the sum of £8,110 7*s.* 6*d.* was expended on the new water works, thus making a total expenditure of £23,822 12*s.* 1*d.* The principal work consisted of the completion of the following:—

Bocage Reservoir, capacity 450,000 gallons. Cast Iron Main 6in., connecting Bocage Reservoir with Entrêpot works and Town main.

Entrêpot works. Filter beds and service Reservoir, the latter holding 300,000 gallons. Cast Iron Mains, 6in. and 7in., from Entrêpot to Town boundary.

Castries Town Mains.

The subsidiary works at Piton Flore and Louisie, consisting of five dams with straining chambers and settling channels, were commenced and completed, and the mains laid ready for joining on to the principal main from La Sorciere at any time that a failure of water from the latter source may render it necessary to do so. From this subsidiary source a minimum supply of 120,000 gallons a day can be depended upon, and this can be either held in reserve, as at present, or in case of necessity could be added to the supply now being drawn from La Sorciere, and which for the present is more than sufficient for the needs of the town and the shipping.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar.

The sugar made in St. Lucia is chiefly of a high class, and is manufactured in four Central Factories at Grand Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, Vieuxfort, and Dennery. The output of these four factories in 1897 aggregated 3,962 tons as against 3,698 tons in 1896, and of this amount 3,400 tons were exported in 1897 and 3,055 tons in 1896. The value of the sugar exported in 1897 was £55,497, and in 1896 £56,095.

In addition to the four central factories, several small mills, driven chiefly by wind or horse power, are maintained for the purpose of making Muscovado sugar, the export of which in 1897 amounted to 457 tons, value £3,900, as against 493 tons, value £5,859, in 1896. Syrup, an article of favourite local consumption, is also largely made in these primitive mills. The amount produced cannot be ascertained.

The trade in the bye-products of sugar during the years 1896 and 1897 was as follows :—

	1896.		1897.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
		£		£
Molasses	105,000	1,443	135,120	1,858
Syrup...	100	5	455	23
Rum	1,280	91	10,107	588

ST. LUCIA. 1897.

The rum manufactured in 1896 was 39,460 gallons, of which 37,360 were consumed locally, and 63,637 gallons in 1897, of which 37,344 went into local consumption. The large increase in the manufacture in 1897 is chiefly due to the importation of 22,480 gallons of molasses in that year, no such importation having occurred in the previous year.

Much difficulty is at times experienced by the proprietors of the central factories in getting a sufficient supply of labour, the population within easy distance from Castries being tempted away by the military works and by the money to be made on the coaling wharves, while from the more distant parts of the island a constant emigration to the gold fields of Cayenne often hamper agricultural operations. Much of both field and factory work is done by labourers from Antigua, St. Vincent, St. Martin's, and Barbados, from which last named island efforts are being made to induce families of the labouring class to come and settle in the fertile valleys of St. Lucia. The central factories are fitted with the latest machinery for the production of sugar crystals for the English and American markets. Grand Cul-de-Sac is capable of making 2,500 tons in five months, working during the day; Roseau in the same time can produce 1,500 tons; Vieux-fort, 2,000 tons; and Dennery, 2,000 tons. In each case the bulk of the sugar is grown by the factory, but much is contributed by peasant proprietors.

Cocoa.

The crop for 1897 was a small one, owing to the heavy rainfall and wind experienced during the flowering period of May and June. The cultivation is slowly increasing, and it is hoped that the excellent results obtained by the few planters who apply intelligent methods to the treatment of their crop may, together with the sound advice tendered by the Curator of the Botanic Station when on his lecturing tours, induce the petty proprietors to improve on the primitive system to which they obstinately cling.

Coffee.

Liberian coffee is proving to be well adapted to the soil and climate of St. Lucia, and its culture is being extended. The demand for seeds and plants is increasing, and improved machinery for curing the crop is being imported.

Kola.

The cultivation of kola is being slowly extended and one shipment has been made to the London market, where good prices were obtained.

Ginger.

The cultivation of this spice is at present being tried by one or two planters only, but a shipment which was made in the month of June realized 70/- per hundred weight, and the profitable nature of the undertaking is being brought to the knowledge of the people.

The estimated acreage of the products cultivated in the Colony is given in the following return :—

—	Sugar Cane.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Spices.	Provisions.	Other Cultivation.	Pasture.	Total Cultivation.
Acres	5,234	3,940	104	11	3,944	323	12,234	25,790

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 152,320.

BOTANIC STATION.

Much activity has prevailed in connection with the Botanic Station, in which an increasing interest is shown by the general public. Plants were distributed throughout the Island to the number of 21,138, exclusive of 9,000 ginger sets given gratis to purchasers of Crown lands, and an impetus has been given to the cultivation of Liberian coffee, cocoa, nutmegs and kola, the number of each disseminated by sale, exchange or free gift being as follows :—

—	Sale and Exchange	Free.	Total.
Liberian coffee	10,942	5,994	16,936
Cocoa	44	1,302	1,346
Nutmegs	444	463	907
Kola	214	704	918

The following table, shewing the number of economic plants distributed during the last three years, affords satisfactory evidence that the station is increasing in favour with the public, and that its sphere of usefulness is being constantly enlarged :—

Year.	No. of Plants Distributed.
1895	4,380
1896	19,504
1897	22,179

In addition to the assistance given to the planting community at the station itself, the Curator is paying periodical visits to the several districts of the Island for the purpose of giving lectures and practical demonstration upon agricultural topics, in the hope of encouraging an extended cultivation of the most useful and valuable economic plants upon rational and scientific principles.

The site of the present station leaves unfortunately much to be desired, and with a larger area and more suitable land the advantages now offered will be brought home with greater force to the general public.

The rainfall during the year as recorded at the station was 106·43 inches ; April with 1·53 inch being the driest, and May with 20·44 inches being the wettest.

METEOROLOGY.

At the station on Morne Fortune, at an elevation of 745 feet above mean sea level, the absolute maximum temperature recorded was 89·0 in October ; the absolute minimum was 67·0 in February and March. In 1896 the greatest heat registered was 89·2 in October, the minimum being 66· in January, February and March. The rainfall on the Morne for the year was 111·26 inches as against 114·29 in 1896, the wettest month being May, 18·91 inches, and the driest, April, 1·88 inches. Rain fell on 271 days as against 280 days in 1896.

C. A. KING-HARMAN,

Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 267.

ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 239.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN

1899.

[C.—9498–1.] *Price* 2½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 267.

ST. LUCIA, 1898.

ST. LUCIA.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 239.)

ADMINISTRATOR THOMPSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

St. Vincent,
20th June, 1899.

[Forwarded.]

HARRY THOMPSON,
Administrator,
Windward Islands.

Government House,
St. Lucia,
7th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,
C. A. KING-HARMAN,
Administrator.

His Excellency,
Sir ALFRED MOLONEY, K.C.M.G.,
Grenada.

3312*—75—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

ST. LUCIA, 1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The net revenue for the year was £67,627 16*s.* 2*d.*, being £10,368 7*s.* 11*d.* more than the estimated revenue £57,259 0*s.* 3*d.* The net revenue for the five years ended 31st December 1898 stood as follows :—

	£
1894	55,937
1895	48,564
1896	55,331
1897	60,639
1898	67,628

The increase in the revenue as compared with 1897 amounted to £6,988 17*s.* 8*d.*, and occurred chiefly under heads of Customs, Port and Harbour Dues, Post Office (sale of postage stamps), and unestimated sources under the head of Miscellaneous, which included the sum of £3,114 15*s.* 8*d.*, the amount of the Colony's deficit at the 31st December 1897, received from the Imperial Government, which, by direction of the Secretary of State, was credited to general revenue.

The following comparative statement of revenue for the year ended 31st December 1898 will furnish more detailed figures of the increased receipts during the year under report :—

Head of Revenue.	Estimate 1898.	Actual revenue to 31st Dec. 1898.	Revenue for same period in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	29,000 0 0	32,260 14 9	29,844 3 10	2,416 10 11	—
Port and Harbour	4,500 0 0	5,638 11 8	4,988 6 9	650 4 11	—
Licences and Excise	14,250 0 0	14,818 14 11	14,824 19 6	—	6 4 7
Fees of Court, &c.	3,904 0 0	3,929 14 3	4,336 1 4	—	406 7 1
Post Office...	1,444 0 0	2,842 13 0	1,540 2 1	1,302 10 11	—
Telephone...	450 0 0	483 15 10	431 4 8	52 11 2	—
Miscellaneous	120 0 0	3,865 11 0	640 11 4	3,224 19 8	—
Interest	1,735 10 3	1,932 10 9	2,177 19 0	—	245 8 3
Repayment of loans	1,855 10 0	1,855 10 0	1,855 10 0	—	—
Total	57,259 0 3	67,627 16 2	60,638 18 6	7,646 17 7	657 19 11

The increased revenue as shewn in the above statement is to be attributed to increased activity in the coaling trade and to the general prosperity of the Colony prior to the disastrous hurricane in September. A change in the rate of ocean postage, prematurely made from 2½*d.* to 2*d.* per half ounce, which obtained from the 9th May to the 11th June, resulted in the abnormal sale of the 2*d.* and 2½*d.* denomination of stamps, apparently for collecting purposes, to the amount of £1,160.

The estimated expenditure during the year was £57,623 2*s.* 8*d.* and the actual disbursements amounted to £60,975 3*s.* 1*d.*, or £3,352 0*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the estimates, but £6,652 13*s.* 1*d.* less than the actual revenue.

The following statement shews in detail the expenditure for the two years 1897 and 1898 :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimate 1898 and Supplementary Votes.	Actual Expenditure to 31st Dec. 1898.	Expenditure same period preceding year.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ...	13,168 9 4	13,177 3 9	13,418 10 0	—	241 6 3
2. Pensions	333 18 4	373 11 3	337 9 2	36 2 1	—
3. Governor and Legislature	2,567 12 0	2,496 0 11	2,272 2 7	223 18 4	—
4. Treasury, Customs, &c.	2,940 14 0	2,914 0 1	2,983 5 8	—	69 5 7
5. Audit	433 16 0	392 11 8	422 7 4	—	29 15 8
6. Port and Marine	838 5 0	784 9 4	886 5 2	—	101 15 10
7. Legal	4,123 18 0	4,143 10 0	4,112 8 4	31 1 8	—

8. Police	3,412 14 0	3,303 9 0	3,351 0 7	—	47 11 7
9. Prisons	1,048 16 0	1,018 4 3	988 18 6	29 5 9	—
10. Medical	6,606 17 0	6,170 7 10	6,112 11 1	57 16 9	—
11. Sanitary	312 0 0	249 14 9	340 3 0	—	90 8 3
12. Charitable	950 0 0	900 7 11	895 4 0	5 3 11	—
13. Immigration	800 5 11	792 0 11	886 17 0	—	94 16 1
14. Education	3,788 16 0	3,642 6 0	3,412 10 6	229 15 6	—
15. Ecclesiastical	1,516 13 4	1,516 13 4	1,500 0 0	16 13 4	—
16. Miscellaneous	4,052 11 4	3,650 10 7	3,769 6 10	—	118 16 3
17. Post Office	2,262 2 3	2,223 6 10	2,127 6 8	96 0 2	—
18. Telephone	383 0 0	376 13 10	330 13 2	46 0 8	—
19. Agriculture	682 12 0	534 2 6	426 9 11	107 12 7	—
20. Public Works and Survey	1,709 19 0	1,629 9 2	1,876 9 0	—	246 19 10
21. Public Works, Recurrent	6,535 0 0	5,883 5 7	5,199 5 9	683 19 10	—
22. Public Works, Extraordinary	6,697 5 4	4,803 3 7	1,093 10 0	3,709 13 7	—
Total	65,165 4 10	60,975 3 1	56,742 14 3	5,273 4 2	1,040 15 4

The expenditure to 31st December on account of the damage done by the hurricane in September amounted to £4,566 0*s.* 7*d.*, and may be classified as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Roads	2,948	16	6
Jetties	159	10	1
River Works	780	5	0
Public Works	677	9	0
Total ...	£4,566	0	7

Assets and Liabilities and Public Debt.

The balance-sheet of the Colony at the close of the year shows a surplus of £3,537 17*s.* 5*d.*, as shown by the following figures:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Deficit at 31st December 1897 ...	3,114	15	8
Net excess of Revenue over Expenditure for 1898	6,652	13	1
Surplus at 31st Dec. 1898	£3,537	17	5

The Public Debt of St. Lucia at the 31st December 1898 amounted to £189,579 11*s.*, as against a sum of £191,979 11*s.* at the close of 1897. The debt is divisible as follows:—

Inscribed Stock—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Colony's share for Public Works...	50,579	11	0
„ „ Water Works...	12,000	0	0
Castries Town Board share ...	17,000	0	0
Colony's share for Immigration purposes	5,900	0	0
Total Inscribed Stock ...	85,479	11	0
Debentures	104,100	0	0
Total Debt at 31st Dec. 1898 ...	£189,579	11	0

The amount due to debenture holders at the end of 1897 was £106,500. During the year under report £2,400 debentures were redeemed, thus leaving the outstanding amount £104,100 as shown above.

The sinking funds of the Colony for the repayment of the above mentioned loans stood as follows at the 31st December 1898:—

	£	s.	d.
For Stock	2,462	4	10
For Debentures	5,599	12	1
Total ...	£8,061	16	11

As compared with the 31st December 1897—

	£	s.	d.
For Stock	1,709	8	3
For Debentures	3,830	6	6
Total ...	£5,539	14	9

The charges on account of the Colony's debt (including interest and sinking fund) amounted to the sum of £13,177 3*s.* 9*d.*, against which a sum of £3,788 0*s.* 9*d.* has been recovered from the Immigration Fund and the Castries Town Fund, being their share of interest and sinking fund on loans raised on their behalf on the general security of the Colony.

Castries Town Board.

The net revenue and expenditure of the Castries Town Fund for the five years ended the 31st December 1898 stood as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	3,495 1 5	3,732 12 3
1895	3,726 18 8	3,507 6 8
1896	3,978 6 0	3,626 1 11
1897	4,397 15 6	3,928 10 0
1898	5,276 12 10	4,718 2 8

The gradual yearly increase in the revenue appears to have been chiefly attributable to the prosperity of the market, and latterly to the improved water supply, which enables the town to meet the increased demand from the shipping. A sum of £782 10*s.* 4*d.* was placed by the Colonial Government to the credit of the Castries Town Fund in February 1898 as its share of the premium realised under the issues of the loans for the market, &c., and water works.

TRADE.

Imports and Exports.

Hereunder is a return of the chief articles imported during 1898 as compared with those imported in 1897:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CLASS I.—FOOD AND DRINK SUPPLIES:—				
Cattle	560	958	3,313 7 7	6,975 18 4
Sheep	629	495	1,113 1 1	983 15 6
Ale and beer, bottles	1,792$\frac{13}{15}$ dozen	2,529$\frac{1}{3}$ dozen	775 9 2	991 14 11
„ wood	37,628 gallons	45,023 gallons	2,189 0 3	2,707 17 2
Bacon and hams	19,053$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	25,766$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	513 15 5	698 6 6
Beef and pork, salted and pickled	225,274 „	315,247 „	1,980 6 8	3,212 7 6
Butter	32,312$\frac{1}{2}$ „	53,959$\frac{1}{2}$ „	1,377 3 10	1,681 19 8
Oleomargarine	98,099 „	79,943 „	1,830 8 4	1,466 6 1
Cheese	26,402 „	29,396 „	673 17 0	717 13 6

Coffee	46,487 „	47,871 „	1,353 14 4	741 7 3
Fish, salted and dried	9,010 cwt. 23 lbs.	10,775 cwts. 74 lbs.	7,260 9 11	7,767 10 4
Flour (wheat)	14,320$\frac{11}{12}$ barrels	15,560$\frac{9}{20}$ barrels	17,764 14 3	16,443 18 3
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	—	—	1,462 2 8	1,546 15 10
Ice	248½ tons	401½ tons	710 13 9	711 19 2
Lard and compounds	76,959 lbs.	98,313 lbs.	815 12 10	898 5 11
Medicine (no quinine)	—	—	1,013 12 10	1,189 11 8
Oats...	8,249 bushels	9,164 bushels	1,069 7 4	1,229 15 9
Oil-lard, olive	7,881$\frac{5}{6}$ gallons	6,573$\frac{1}{6}$ gallons	1,133 2 11	682 18 1
Peas and beans	3,070½ bushels	4,058 bushels	964 9 4	758 4 0
Preserves	—	—	1,087 5 6	1,367 4 10
Rice...	577,466 lbs.	541,334 lbs.	3,216 19 1	2,877 11 10
Spirits :—				
Brandy	516$\frac{3}{8}$ gallons	578$\frac{3}{4}$ gallons	268 5 3	255 18 3
Gin	1,523$\frac{5}{6}$ „	1,487$\frac{1}{4}$ „	381 1 3	368 2 4
Whisky	3,152$\frac{7}{8}$ „	3,306$\frac{3}{4}$ „	1,127 7 7	1,264 0 3
Wines...	—	—	2,817 2 2	3,193 12 3

Imports and Exports—continued.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CLASS I.—FOOD AND DRINK SUPPLIES—*continued.*				
NARCOTICS :—				
Tobacco, manufactured	14,785$\frac{5}{13}$ lbs.	16,513$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	1,035 6 1	1,017 5 10
„ unmanufactured	50,226 „	65,675 „	919 1 6	1,255 7 4
CLASS II.—RAW MATERIALS, METALS :—				
Coal...	63,902$\frac{1}{3}$ tons	76,046$\frac{1}{2}$ tons	53,809 4 11	72,149 0 0
Manure	9,220 bags	4,498 bags	5,324 13 4	2,343 9 5
Oil, cotton seed	31,060$\frac{1}{3}$ gallons	32,155$\frac{1}{6}$ gallons	1,825 12 9	2,033 2 4
„ petroleum	61,243 „	58,282 „	1,392 14 3	1,433 9 11
Wood, W. pine	539,810 feet	734,067 feet	2,157 17 9	3,902 1 1
„ P. pine	196,187 „	330,516 „	988 1 1	1,739 7 11

Class III.—Textile Manufactures :—					
Cottons and woollens	—	—	23,308 2 4	25,149 10 1	
Arms and ammunition	—	—	19,165 19 2	5,243 2 10	
Hardware	—	—	2,954 14 5	3,215 11 4	
Iron, galvanized	—	—	1,056 14 6	945 11 10	
Machinery and apparatus for industrial purposes and for manufacturing purposes.	—	—	1,676 18 7	1,157 7 9	
Boots and shoes	—	—	4,596 2 9	4,459 16 4	
Building materials	—	—	8,186 13 2	10,601 1 0	
Cement	6,072 barrels	2,088 barrels	3,842 13 4	2,373 8 9	
Earthenware	—	—	1,391 0 6	1,980 14 8	
Furniture	—	—	989 7 10	891 13 6	
Glassware	—	—	612 17 2	965 16 8	
Haberdashery	—	—	12,477 15 11	11,363 14 7	
Hats and bonnets	—	—	1,861 4 11	2,006 0 10	
Ordnance stores	—	—	6,180 10 9	26,142 6 6	
Paints, dyes, and varnish...	—	—	815 13 0	728 8 3	
Soap, common	313,919 lbs.	279,808 lbs.	2,472 14 4	2,319 15 0	

The large increases shown in the importation of cattle, ale, bacon and hams, and ordnance stores are due to the presence of the military.

The increase in the importation of coal may be taken as an indication of the steady development of the port of Castries as a coaling station.

All the other increases are due to general improvement in trade.

The decrease in the importation of coffee may be accounted for by the fact that the local cultivation of coffee is being extended.

The decrease in the importation of manure is a sign of the parlous condition of the planting community through the unremunerative results of their labours.

All the other decreases may be accounted for by the ordinary fluctuations of the markets.

The following is a return of the total value of the imports for the last five years :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	France.	Other Foreign Places.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	93,780	31,933	41,789	11,491	8,550	187,543
1895 ...	74,512	28,690	39,358	6,809	5,577	154,946
1896 ...	101,983	25,177	45,543	6,930	10,900	190,533
1897 ...	119,355	52,639	57,478	8,899	6,882	245,253
1898 ...	140,329	34,843	82,938	6,514	7,371	271,995

It will be observed that the imports have increased in value within the period shewn in the return by 45 per cent.

This increase amongst the several countries of origin would be in the following proportions, namely :—

United Kingdom increased by 50 per cent.
British Colonies „ „ 9 „ „
United States „ „ 98 „ „

On the other hand there was a marked decline in the values of importations from France and other foreign places.

France decreased by 43 per cent.

Other foreign places decreased by 14 per cent.

The following is a list of the articles which are preferably imported from foreign countries, and the reasons why these articles of foreign manufacture are superseding the goods of British make :—

Articles.	Foreign Countries whence Imported.	Reasons for not importing such goods from England.
Boots and shoes (low priced).	America.	Cheaper freight ; better style ; cheaper ; no charge for packing.
Grey ducks and cotton canvas.	do.	Good quality and low price ; no charge for packing.
Hardware hinges ...	do.	Good quality and finish.
Watches	do.	Low price.
Soap	do.	Low price and low freight.
Chairs	do.	Cheapness.
Locks, knobs	do.	Very much cheaper and freight less.
Bolts	do.	Do. do. do.
Furniture	do.	Very much cheaper and freight much less.
Axes	do.	Finish of American better and charge less.
Plated ware	do.	Cheaper and better value and charge less.
School slates	do.	Better finish, cheaper and better value and charge less.
Dyed yarns	do.	Cannot get same quality in England.

ST. LUCIA, 1898.

Articles.	Foreign Countries whence Imported.	Reasons for not importing such goods from England.
Tools in general ...	America.	Better steeled.
Matches	Germany.	Low price.
Lamps	do.	Cheapness.
Toys and games ...	do.	Do.
Ties	do.	Very much cheaper and comparatively good quality.
Shawls	do.	Do. do. do.
Hosiery...	do.	Do. do. do.
Pipes	do.	Do. do. do.
Chairs	do.	Quality different and cheaper
Silk foulards and handkerchiefs.	France.	Superior style.
Ladies' parasols.	do.	Do.
Confectionery (good quality).	do.	Superior style and quality.
Locks	do	Very much cheaper and freight less.
Ladies' boots	do.	Do. do. do.
Perfumery	do.	Do. do. do.
Cologne...	do.	Do. do. do.
Silk dress stuff... ...	do.	Special quality and finish.
Cement (common)	Belgium.	Lower price and freight.
Earthenware do.	do.	Do. do.
Glassware do.	do.	Do. do.
Felt hats	Italy.	Do. do.
Matches	Sweden.	Low price.

A comparative table of the principal exports for 1897 and 1898 is given below :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CLASS I.—LIVE ANIMALS, FOOD, AND DRINKS :—				
Cattle	53	—	354 13 4	—
Horses	30	9	259 1 8	100 5 0
Cocoa	880,400 lbs.	942,700 lbs.	15,839 10 9	25,377 2 10¾
Fruit, fresh :—				
Mangoes	316,240	1,771 packages	173 18 8	808 2 0
Rum	10,107¼ gallons	14,618 gallons	588 10 8	916 13 4¾
Sugar :—				
Molasses	135,120 „	162,670 „	1,857 18 0	2,236 14 3
Muscovado	1,025,360 lbs.	680,900 lbs.	3,899 19 10	3,197 15 11¼
Usine	7,617,332 „	7,722,800 „	55,497 14 0	49,370 15 1½

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
CLASS I.—*continued.*				
Vegetables :—				
			£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Unenumerated	15 packages	898 packages	8 1 0	414 15 10
Hides	714 cwts.	464½ cwts.	599 15 3	591 12 2¾
Turtleshell...	150 lbs.	—	106 1 0	—
Fuelwood	2,381½ cords	1,790 cords	1,131 4 3	850 5 0
Logwood	165¼ tons	58 tons	247 17 6	87 0 0
Pimento sticks	27,250	5,909	227 1 8	49 4 10

The output of cocoa is steadily increasing, and the figures were largely enhanced by the greater value of the article in the European markets.

The fruit season was prolific, and the mangoes found ready sale at Barbados.

An attempt, which proved partially successful, was made during the year to establish an export trade in rum between this Colony and French Ports. The high protective duties, however, which are levied in France are barriers to complete success in this direction.

The market for molasses in the Island of Martinique, where the rum industry is prosecuted on a large scale, was re-opened in the year by the reduction of a hitherto exorbitant duty, and the export of this article to that place consequently increased.

The manufacture of Muscovado sugar continued to decrease steadily. There was a sensible increase, however, in the quantity of Usine sugar exported.

There was no turtleshell exported in 1898. For some unexplained reason the natives do not prosecute this industry with any degree of steadiness. Fishermen from the neighbouring islands actually come to this island and enjoy the gains to be made from this source.

The decrease in the quantity of woods exported is attributed to the low prices reached by these articles throughout the year.

With regard to the decrease in the exports of cattle and horses it should be explained that in 1897 many of these animals were shipped to French Guiana by speculators, but as a general rule this Colony is not in a position to export any number of them.

A return of the total value of exports for the last five years is given hereunder :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	France.	Other Foreign Places.	Bunker Coals.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	43,062	11,297	35,991	48,629	6,915	45,729	191,623
1895 ...	24,269	2,951	37,760	32,718	4,457	35,714	137,869
1896 ...	24,144	4,842	46,481	14,719	3,534	42,575	136,295
1897 ...	38,042	3,176	98,924	11,461	2,664	76,177	230,444
1898 ...	11,154	6,625	49,054	22,691	3,891	73,093	166,508

The decrease in the value during that period has been at the rate of 13 per cent. It should be, however, noted that in 1894 the values of exports were largely affected by the exportation of log-wood which was then bringing record prices.

On an examination of the return it appears that there was an increase in the value of the exports to the United States at the rate of 36 per cent., but that there were decreases in all the others as follows :—

	per cent.
United Kingdom	74
British Colonies	41
France	53
Other Foreign Countries...	44

The deliveries of bunker coal have increased in the five years by 60 per cent. The higher level reached in 1897 was not however overtopped last year, in fact there was a slight decline in the figures, due it is considered to the disturbance of trade by the Spanish-American war which existed for a few months of the year.

The wide difference in the figures shewn between 1897 and 1898 is due to the fact that in the previous year the return included the value of a cargo of wool which was landed at this port from a shipwrecked vessel and re-exported.

BOTANIC STATION.

The Curator reports that good work has been done during the year by the dissemination throughout the Colony of useful and economic plants, and by the giving of information on the best methods of planting and cultivation.

The number of plants distributed during the year was 18,200 as compared with 22,179 in the previous year, the falling off being attributed to the smaller demand for coffee plants, owing probably to the low prices ruling in the market, and also to the fact that the planters and small growers were too much occupied in the latter months of the year in endeavouring to repair the damage done by the hurricane of the 11th September to be able to give their attention to anything else. Among the plants sold or exchanged or given free to the purchasers of Crown Lands were 5,119 cocoa plants, 7,937 coffee plants, 1,862 rubber

(*castilloa elastica*), 695 nutmeg, and 304 kola. During the last ten years the distribution of plants from the station has been as follows :—

From 1889 to 1894	60,000
In 1895	4,380
In 1896	19,504
In 1897	22,179
In 1898	18,200
Total in ten years ...	124,263

The amount received from the sale of plants, seeds, fruit, and flowers during the year and paid into the Colonial Treasury was £50 10*s.* 0*d.*

Besides giving his attention to the Botanic Station, the Curator has done useful work during the year in giving lectures and practical demonstrations in planting, pruning, grafting, draining, and other field operations in the country districts. These lectures have been, as a rule, well attended, and the people are learning to take an interest in the visits of the Curator and to profit by the opportunities offered to them of improving on their primitive methods of cultivation.

During the months of October and November the Curator was also employed in visiting different parts of the Island for the purpose of advising proprietors as to the best means of restoring cocoa and other cultivation damaged by the hurricane of the 11th September.

Crown Lands.

The Crown Lands and Survey Office was established in 1889 as a branch of the Public Works Department. It was instituted with the object of facilitating the settlement of the Crown and vacant lands in the Colony, and of securing the formation of an independent class of peasant proprietors. These objects are being gradually attained, and the value of the office is becoming more and more recognized and appreciated by those in whose interest it was primarily established. The work of the office and its good influence among the peasants and small holders have been much interfered with by frequent changes of personnel, and it is only

within the last two years that any marked progress in its operations has been observed. During the year under report, much was done in the publication and escheat of vacant lands, the allotment of Crown lands, the survey of Crown boundaries and the keeping open of already established lines, the detection of squatters, and the general supervision of Crown lands for the prevention of illicit wood cutting and forest spoliation.

Eighty-seven applications for land were received representing 965 acres, of which 30 applications were dealt with representing 213 acres, the remainder being carried forward to be dealt with in 1899. The number of applications were 43 in excess of those received in 1897. 39 lots containing 381 acres, valued at £368 15*s.*, were alienated. One village lot and 10 estates containing 1,598 acres were escheated to the Crown, and 14 estates representing 2,621 acres were published for escheat, all of which are expected to fall in uncontested during 1899.

Over 7,000 plants for economic culture were distributed free during the year to purchasers of Crown land, many of whom are beginning to exhibit more advanced methods of cultivation.

The settlement of the Crown and vacant lands received a further impetus by the energetic action of the Road Boards of the several districts in obtaining the proclamation of many public byeways, much needed for the improvement of communication, and the consequent opening up of the uncultivated portions of the Island.

The amounts received for survey fees, deposits on account of purchase, and instalment of purchase money, which in 1898 amounted to £633 3*s.* 0*d.* as against £504 7*s.* 3*d.* in 1897, are paid to the credit of the Land Sales Fund which at the close of 1898 amounted to £1,454.

Crown land is sold at an upset price of £1 per acre, payable under ordinary circumstances in four annual instalments.

SHIPPING.

The number of steam vessels entered and cleared at Port Castries during 1898 was 1,113, or less by 126 than in 1897. The number of sailing vessels entered and cleared was 661, or 9 more than in 1897. The total difference therefore in the two years was 117 against 1898.

It must be explained, however, that the number of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 was exceptionally large in comparison with previous years, and, although the figures in 1898 are below

those of 1897, they are far in excess of those of the preceding years. The shipping trade of the Port was also injuriously affected by the Spanish-American war and by the coal strike in Wales.

Of the total number of trading vessels entered and cleared during the year 1898, 80 per cent. were British and 20 per cent. were foreign. Of the foreign vessels, 49 per cent. were French, 16 per cent. were Dutch, 11 per cent. were Belgian, and the remaining 24 per cent. were German, American, and Norwegian.

In the last five years the increase in the number of vessels entered and cleared amounts to 40 per cent. The number of ships of war which called for coal and other purposes during the year under review was 59, an increase of 35 as compared with the previous year. Of these, 34 were Her Majesty's ships, 9 were American, 7 Italian, 2 French, 2 German, 3 Dutch, 1 Russian, and 1 Austrian. The increase was probably due to the hostilities between America aud Spain, and also to a state of general political unrest.

The total tonnage entered and cleared during 1898 amounted to 1,557,677 tons as compared with 1,780,560 tons in 1897.

The following comparative table gives the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

Return of Shipping for the Five Years from 1894 to 1898.

Years.	Steam Vessels.									Sailing Vessels.									Grand Total.		
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total Steam Vessels.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total Sailing Vessels.					
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1894	295	347,153	12,837	477	587,737	14,900	772	934,890	27,737	451	32,375	2,871	48	14,529	409	499	46,904	3,280	1,271	981,794	31,017
1895	261	304,787	11,666	470	603,206	15,435	731	907,993	27,101	543	28,032	3,062	72	11,643	485	615	39,675	3,547	1,346	947,668	30,648
1896	312	387,076	14,448	558	761,412	17,714	870	1,148,488	32,162	440	27,157	2,922	140	15,145	1,011	580	42,302	3,933	1,450	1,190,790	36,095
1897	330	429,978	14,139	909	1,308,647	26,762	1,239	1,738,625	40,901	500	26,481	3,234	152	15,454	1,114	652	41,935	4,348	1,891	1,780,560	45,249
1898	329	399,598	14,711	784	1,112,938	23,889	1,113	1,512,536	38,600	455	24,985	2,957	206	20,156	1,458	661	45,141	4,415	1,774	1,557,677	43,015

LEGISLATION.

During the year 13 Ordinances were passed and assented to. Of these, the principal were—

1. "The Quarantine Ordinance, 1895, Amendment Ordinance, 1898," the objects of which are to extend the period of incubation of yellow fever from ten days to 14, and to provide for the burial of bodies of persons dying from an infectious disease on board of an infected vessel.

2. "The Public Works and Roads Ordinance, 1889, Amendment Ordinance, 1898," under which the Road Boards are entrusted with the care of the bye-ways in the Island.

3. "The Crown Grants Registration Ordinance, 1898," which provides for the proper registration of all grants of Crown lands together with the diagrams attached thereto.

4. "The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1896, Continuance Ordinance, 1898," whereby an additional charge of 15 per cent. of the amount formerly levied on goods paying *ad valorem* duties was continued for another year.

EDUCATION.

Primary.

During the year under report there were 39 primary schools in operation, an increase of five as compared with the preceding year. These schools were divided into the following classes:—Mixed 20, combined 9, juvenile 5, and infant 5. The number of children on the roll was 5,280, as against 4,447 in 1897, and the average number in attendance was 2,787, an increase of 210 over the attendance in the preceding year.

The number of children examined was 2,512, and the number of passes in two or three subjects was 2,124. This shews an increase of 186 in the number examined and of 85 in the number of passes as compared with 1897.

The total cost of the schools to the Government was £2,904 19*s.* 1*d.*, equal to an expenditure of £1 0*s.* 10*d.* per head in average attendance. In 1897 the amount paid per head was also £1 0*s.* 10*d.* and the total cost was £2,620 13*s.* 9*d.*, or £284 15*s.* 4*d.* less than in 1898.

Special attention was given during the year to the teaching and study of the English language, in the knowledge of which good progress has been made.

Secondary.

St. Mary's College for boys, founded in 1890 by the Vicar General, the Reverend Father Tapon, and subsidized by a grant of £200 per annum from the general revenue of the Colony,

furnishes the only higher education for boys in the Colony. In addition to this annual grant the Government has established ten scholarships, each of the annual value of £6, in order to assist boys from the primary schools to enter the college and to profit by the higher education for a period of five years.

The number of boys on the roll of the college in 1898 was 53 with 43 in average attendance. In 1897 the roll shewed 52 with 46 in average attendance.

The more advanced boys at the college have been recently sent up for the Cambridge Local Examination, with the following results :—

In 1895 two were presented and both passed ; one with honours.

In 1896 seven were presented and all passed ; three with honours.

In 1897 eleven were presented and all passed ; four with honours.

In 1898 eleven were presented, but at the time of writing this report the results were not known.

The examination of the lower classes of the college which had fallen into abeyance was resumed in 1898, with satisfactory results.

At the Convent of St. Joseph, under the energetic management of the Reverend Mother Superior, a higher education is provided for girls. The number on the roll in 1898 was 66 with 61 in average attendance. In 1897 the roll shewed 56 scholars with average attendance 47. This school does not yet receive any financial support from the Government.

There are as yet no schools in the Colony where industrial, technical, and agricultural teaching is afforded.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, &c.

The Victoria Hospital at Castries is an excellent building containing nine wards, six male and three female, and having good accommodation for 130 patients. Branch hospitals also exist at Soufriere, where in two good wards 26 beds are provided ; at Vieuxfort containing 21 beds ; and at Dennery with accommodation for 30 patients. There is also a hospital for the exclusive treatment of yaws, which is isolated on a small Island a quarter of a mile from the shore, and has ample accommodation for over 100 patients.

Besides these hospitals, there is a poor asylum in Castries for the reception of infirm and chronic cases, and there is a Government dispensary in each of the smaller villages in the Island.

There is no lunatic asylum and all cases of insanity are sent for detention and treatment to the Central Asylum at Grenada.

The Colonial Surgeon, in his annual report for 1898 on the Medical Institutions of the Colony, shews that the general health of the people and the sanitary condition of the Island were nearly all that could be desired, and states that during the year no case of contagious disease occurred.

At the yaws hospital it has been clearly established that the disease, so long considered to be incurable, yields satisfactorily to treatment, and out of 79 admissions during the year 72 were discharged cured.

SAVINGS BANKS.

In addition to the principal bank at Castries there were opened during the year 1898 two branch savings banks at Soufriere and Vieuxfort.

	£	s.	d.
The balance to the credit of depositors in the principal bank on 1st January 1898 was	10,382	6	9
The amount deposited during the year and accrued interest was	10,505	7	3
Total ...	£20,887	14	0

	£	s.	d.
The amount withdrawn during the year was	£9,118	7	8
The amount remaining to credit of depositors on 31st December 1898 was	£11,769	6	4

so that the deposits were increased during the year by £1,386 19*s.* 7*d.*

The following table shews the transactions of the bank during the last five years :—

Year.	No. of Transactions.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	No. of Depositors at 31st Dec.	Total Amount at Credit of Depositors at 31st Dec.
		£	£		£
1894	3,376	9,458	9,842	1,187	9,428
1895	3,201	7,000	7,162	1,275	9,267
1896	3,351	7,165	6,953	1,277	9,810
1897	3,635	8,498	8,162	1,294	10,382
1898	5,113	10,244	9,118	1,477	11,769

From this table it will be seen that within the last five years the transactions have increased over 50 per cent. and nearly 25 per cent. of deposits have been added to the balance in the bank.

The following table gives a comparative classification of the deposits for the two years 1897, 1898 :—

Year.	Deposits of £10 and over.	Deposits of £40 and over.	Deposits of £70 and over.	Deposits of £100 and over.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897 ...	2,204 4 2	1,877 16 3	1,341 15 3	4,958 6 1
1898 ...	2,666 11 5	3,057 1 8	1,346 18 3	4,698 15 0

Of the depositors during the year under report, 78 per cent. of the total number were employés and of the labouring class generally.

The following investments on account of the funds of the bank were held at 31st December 1898 :—

			£	s.	d.
Canadian Government ...	3½ per cent. ...		2,000	0	0
New South Wales Government	3	„ „ ...	2,000	0	0
Western Australia Government	3	„ „ ...	1,500	0	0
Trinidad Government ...	3	„ „ ...	1,500	0	0
Barbados Government ...	4	„ „ ...	1,000	0	0
Colonial Bank, on deposit	3	„ „ ...	500	0	0
		Total	£8,500	0	0

The sum of £293 0*s.* 4*d.* was received for interest on the investments, and the interest (3 per cent.) which accrued to depositors' accounts during the year amounted to £281 6*s.* 11*d.*

At the district bank at Soufriere, which was opened on 1st March 1898, the transactions during the year were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Deposits	554	4	5
Withdrawals	368	14	0
To credit of depositors, 31st December ...	£185	10	5

At the district bank at Vieuxfort, opened also on the 1st March, the transactions to 31st December were :—

	£	s.	d.
Deposits	192	17	0
Withdrawals	66	2	0
To credit of depositors, 31st December ...	£126	15	0

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force in 1898 consisted of a chief of police, 3 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 51 privates. The Island for police purposes is divided into three districts, each district having three stations. To the first district, including the town of Castries and the villages of Gros Islet and Dennery, were apportioned 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 34 privates ; in the second, including the town of Soufriere and the villages of Anse-la-Raye and Choiseul, there were 1 corporal and 10 privates, and in the third, comprising the villages of Vieuxfort, Laborie, and Micoud, there were 1 sergeant and 7 privates.

The force is supplemented by a body of about 100 rural constables selected from among the peasantry, and paid 2*s*. a day when employed.

The cost of the police force for 1898 was £3,303 9*s*.

Prisons.

Several improvements were made during the year ; a supply of pure water being laid on, with baths for males and females, a new shed erected for the accommodation of stonebreakers, and general repair effected.

The number of prisoners received during the year was 694, namely, 484 males and 210 females. This shews an increase of 3 males and a decrease of 16 females as compared with the previous year.

The general health of the prisoners is reported as not having been quite so good as during 1897, influenza having been prevalent during the early part of the year.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £1,015 17*s*. 3*d*., of which the cost of the establishment came to £614. The revenue derived from the sale of coffins, macadam, sifted earth, baskets, and concrete blocks, together with the scraping of ginger,

amounted to £158 8*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of the labour performed outside the prison, together with the washing done for public institutions in the female prison, is estimated at £103 17*s.* 8*d.*

There were no deaths, no flogging, nor any escapes.

Criminal Statistics.

For the trial of indictable offences there were in 1898 three sittings of the Royal Court (Criminal Jurisdiction). Twenty-three cases were tried; in 18 of which the accused were convicted and in 5 acquitted.

The number of convictions was greatly in excess of that in the previous year, when out of 17 cases tried 12 were convicted.

An increase in the number of summary convictions as compared with 1897 is also apparent from the returns submitted from the Magistrates' Courts. In 1897 the number was 1,013; in 1898 it was 1,056. The figures for 1898 include 74 cases of prædial larceny, representing an increase of 53 over the previous year.

It is perhaps premature to determine whether the decided increase in the records of crime for the year under report as compared with 1897 is due to the growth of crime among the hitherto fairly law-abiding population of the Colony, or to increased vigilance on the part of the police; but there can be no doubt that the large influx of people from the other Islands, attracted to St. Lucia by the military works, the central factories, and the coaling trade, does contribute to this increase.

VITAL STATISTICS.

On the registers for 1898 were entered 1,858 births and 1,214 deaths, giving a natural increase of 644 to the population.

The total population on the 31st December 1898 was 47,976, of which 23,311 were males and 24,665 females; equal to 205·65 to the square mile. In 1897 the total population was 47,332 (22,995 males and 24,337 females), and at the last census taken in 1891 the figures were 42,220 (20,461 males and 21,759 females). The population to the square mile was 205 as compared with 203 in 1897. The natural increase of 644 was slightly under that of 1897 which was 661.

The still-births numbered 167, which deducted from the total births left a net birth-rate of 3·57 per cent. of the population. The rate for 1897 was exactly the same. It was 3·84 per cent. in 1896, 4·04 in 1895, and 4·11 in 1894. The causes which, as pointed out in the report for 1897, operate to keep down the birth-rate, namely, rural depression and the voluntary expatriation of numbers of the virile population, still exist.

Legitimacy represented 42·41 per cent. of the total births and illegitimacy 57·59. In 1897 the rates were respectively 39·75 and 60·25.

The deaths entered on the registers numbered 1,214. Eliminating the still-births (167) there results a death-rate of 2·21 per cent. of the population. The rate was 2·15 in 1897, 2·17 in 1896, 2·24 in 1895, and 2·09 in 1894.

There were no epidemic diseases during the year, and the endemic were not in any special degree fatal.

Only one death from snake-bite was recorded. In 1897 two such deaths occurred, and, going back 30 years, the records of 1869 shew 22 fatal cases in that year.

METEOROLOGY.

From the observations taken during the year at the Botanic Station in Castries 10 feet above sea level, it results that the mean daily height of the barometer was 29·982 ; the mean annual temperature was 80·1, and the total rainfall was 107·49. A maximum temperature of 90·1 in the shade was recorded in May, a minimum of 69·9 in March. The heaviest rainfall was in September, when 25·28 inches were measured ; the driest month was May, when only 2·48 inches fell. Rain fell on 271 days during the year. The greatest quantity falling in any one day was 13·18 inches on the 11th of September, when the rain gauge at the station was found to be overflowing. The Curator estimates that at least 16 inches fell on that occasion in the 24 hours.

The hurricane of the 11th September was not very seriously felt in Castries, and the Botanic Station escaped with the loss of several trees, but in other parts of the Island the damage done by the wind and more especially by the heavy rains was most deplorable. The steep hill sides, surcharged with water, slid away in all directions carrying away plantations, houses, roads, and bridges, and leaving rock and rubbish behind. The injury done to public property amounted to nearly £10,000, and the losses of proprietors and other cultivators are estimated after minute and careful enquiry at £50,000. A promising cocoa crop was in great part completely swept away, and the hopes of the people in view of a brisk market and high prices were destroyed. So complete was the disappearance of many fine plantations that even where the soil has not been entirely washed away a delay of from 5 to 10 years in the re-establishment of the trees is inevitable. The loss of life was fortunately but small, but the injury to property was very great involving hundreds of peasant proprietors in total ruin.

POSTAL.

The revenue and expenditure in connection with the postal transactions of the years 1897, 1898 were as follows :—

Revenue.

1897.	1898.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,879 8 5½	3,027 12 9½

Expenditure.

1897.	1898.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2,139 7 7	2,148 6 9

The revenue therefore for the year under report was £879 6*s.* 0½*d.* in excess of the expenditure for the same year, and exceeded the receipts of 1897 by £1,148 4*s.* 4*d.* The following tables represent the work of the Post Office during the above-mentioned years :—

Received from Abroad.

Year.	Letters and Post-cards.	Papers and Books.
1897	85,574	50,896
1898	85,201	50,757

Sent Abroad.

Year.	Letters and Post-cards.	Papers and Books.
1897	72,718	6,324
1898	82,531	7,837

Parcel Post.

Year.	Received.	Sent.
1897	1,445	459
1898	1,744	509

Money Orders.

Year.	Amount Received.	Amount Sent Abroad.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	978 8 7	4,891 6 4
1898	1,235 15 5	5,809 13 8

The Customs dues collected on the contents of the parcels amounted to £233 12*s.* 11*d.*, an increase of £32 10*s.* 3*d.* on the amount taken in the previous year.

The Colony's share of commission on money orders amounted to £98 11*s.* 11*d.*, an increase of £15 19*s.* 8*d.* on the amount of the previous year.

Inland Services.

There was an increase in the business of the inland service in the year under report. The number of letters exchanged between the central and branch offices was 45,966, an increase of 3,587 as compared with the previous year. The number of papers and books was 11,932,—616 more than in 1897.

The number of vessels which brought mails to the Colony during the year was 254 as compared with 231 in 1897, and the vessels which took away mails numbered 296 as against 247 in the previous year.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

St. Lucia is connected by the West India and Panama Company's cables with Santiago de Cuba in the north, from which place communication with the United States and the rest of the world is obtained, and with British Guiana in the south. In each case a duplicate system has been laid down.

A telephone system connecting Castries with the seven small towns or villages in the Island was completed in 1896. The seven country exchanges are worked by the police, and 120 miles of trunk line are open for traffic. The lines are run on wooden poles which, owing to the effects of the climate and wood-eating insects, are not found satisfactory, and are being replaced by iron rails. The revenue derived from the system in 1898 was £483 15*s.* 10*d.* as against £431 4*s.* 8*d.* in 1897. The expenditure in 1898 was £376 13*s.* 10*d.*, and in 1897 £330 13*s.* 2*d.*

The system is in the hands of the Government.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The total military expenditure for the year was £54,385 7*s.* 4*d.* as compared with £31,815 8*s.* 2*d.* in 1897.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Necessary repairs to public buildings, wharves, and lighthouses were executed during the year, involving an expenditure of £743 14*s.*

The new cemetery at Choc was completed at a total cost of £1,431 8*s.* 10*d.*

Dredging operations in the harbour were confined to the removal of obstructions to traffic, no fresh ground being broken.

Sanitary works were commenced at the villages of Dennery and Gros Islet, and good progress made in the reclamation of the swamps to the windward of both places.

A sum of £3,212 0*s.* 6*d.* was expended on the maintenance of the roads throughout the Island. One new highway and eleven bye-ways were also taken in hand. The hurricane of the 11th September caused much damage to both roads and bridges, involving an extraordinary expenditure up to the 31st December of £3,236 16*s.* The opening of new tracks where the roads had disappeared, the excavation of the silted rivers, the removal of landslips and general repairs were promptly commenced aud carried on in a satisfactory manner.

On the 1st July the maintenance of the waterworks became a charge on the general revenue of the Colony pending a decision as to the handing over of the concern to the municipal authorities. A meter house with 3 meters was erected ; a supply of water was laid on to the Royal Gaol ; and the reservoir, filter beds, town mains, pipe lines, and head works were maintained in an efficient condition.

Considerable damage was done to the works by the hurricane and floods in September, but the whole was repaired at a cost of £200.

House connections with the mains in Castries not having yet been made, the revenue for the works was derived solely from the water supplied to the shipping, from the sale of which £1,338 17*s.* 3*d.* was received.

IMMIGRATION.

On the 10th December 1898 the 158 indentured coolies remaining in the Colony under their first term of service, namely, five years, completed their term of indenture and were then free to dispose of their labour as they pleased, although still bound to remain in the Island for a further period of five years.

The total coolie population in the Colony is estimated at from 2,000 to 2,500, and of these, some 740 are still bound by their contracts to remain in the Island for periods varying from two to five years.

ST. LUCIA, 1898

The Protector reports that the general health of the people under his care was satisfactory. On the 31st December 1897 the indentured coolies numbered 153, namely, 85 male and 39 female adults, 1 male and 1 female minors, and 27 infants. During the year 1898 there were 7 births, or a rate of 4·57 per cent., and 2 deaths, a rate of 1·25 per cent., leaving 158 alive on 10th December when their period of indenture came to an end.

The Immigration Fund was credited during the year with the following amounts :—

	£	s.	d.
Duty on exported sugar	1,518	19	8
„ „ „ cocoa	370	8	6
„ „ „ molasses	67	16	6
„ „ imported tobacco (unmanufactured)	3,283	15	0
Total	£5,240	19	8

COAL.

The coaling trade of St. Lucia is increasing slowly but surely, and quick despatch coupled with comparative immunity from dues is inducing steamers in want of bunker coals to give the Port of Castries the preference over other coaling stations in the West Indies.

In 1897, 63,902 tons of coal were imported and 78,600 exported.

In 1898, 76,046 tons were imported and 73,411 exported. On every ton or fraction of a ton of coal discharged a harbour due of 6*d.* (sixpence) is levied and paid by the ship discharging. A duty of 6*d.* (sixpence) per ton is in addition paid by the importer.

The revenue derived from this source in 1897 was £3,195 ; in 1898, £3,802.

Of the 73,411 tons shipped in 1898, 13,985 were put on board men-of-war and transports and 59,426 on trading vessels.

AGRICULTURE.

Sugar.

The Usine sugar crop of the year 1898 was an improvement on that of 1897, and the output from the four central factories at Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, Vieuxfort, and Dennery being 4,513 tons as

against 3,962 tons in 1897 and 3,055 tons in 1896. The production of Muscovado sugar is still on the decline; the exports for 1898 being 680,900 pounds as against 1,025,360 pounds in 1897 and 1,104,300 pounds in 1896.

Cocoa.

The year opened full of promise to the cocoa planters; the preliminary or "small" crop being almost unexampled in quantity, the prices good, and the prospects for the main crop in November—December most encouraging. Owing to the dry weather continuing till the end of May the main crop was later than usual, and when the hurricane occurred in September there was a larger quantity of young pods and flowers on the trees than is customary at that time of year. The destruction caused by the force of the wind, the landslips, and the overflowing streams was in many places distressingly complete, and the general crop throughout the Island is estimated to have perished to the extent of at least one-third.

Coffee.

The extension of this cultivation has received a decided check owing to the depressed state of the home and the local markets which have been flooded with low class Brazilian coffees. The experimental growings in St. Lucia will not be extended under existing conditions.

Other Minor Products.

The cultivation of nutmegs, kola, turmeric, musk seed, annatto, vanilla, tea, sarsaparilla, tobacco, india-rubber, rice, and ginger is still in the experimental stage. The reports on ginger and tobacco are alone encouraging; the small markets available for some of the other products, and the length of time before others could become remunerative, being deterrent to the enterprise of small cultivators.

General Remarks.

Generally speaking, the prospects of the Colony are good; and although the effects of the disastrous hurricane of the 11th September will continue to be felt for many years, yet, with the prospect of a continuation of the present prices of sugar and cocoa, with the certainty of an increased demand for local produce in the Castries market, owing to the augmentation of the garrison and the increasing popularity of the port, and with the assistance to be given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the outlook may be regarded with some confidence. The efforts of the local Government are being steadily directed towards the encouragement of the settlement of the Crown lands by the

ST. LUCIA, 1898.

industrious peasantry, and a distinct advance in this direction is being made. The counter attractions of the gold mines in French Guiana, the employment on the sugar estates, the high wages to be gained on the military works, and the remunerative trade of the coal carriers still interfere to a large extent with the permanent settlement of peasant proprietors, and the fear of a land tax is a powerful deterrent to many who would be otherwise desirous of purchasing their own holdings.

Want of capital, so common a feature in West Indian Islands, is a serious hindrance to the development of this small estate of the British Empire ; and in the purchase of the virgin lands of the Colony, in the cultivation of those tropical products for which a remunerative market may exist, and in the raising of stock on the good pasture which can be easily established, there exists undoubtedly a good opening for the investment of capital. The labour market is at present restricted and is barely sufficient for the agricultural needs of the Colony ; but any serious undertaking backed by a sufficiency of capital to ensure continuous and remunerative employment would find no difficulty in attracting the superabundant labouring population of the neighbouring Island of Barbados. The climate and conditions of life are not favourable to the employment of white labour. In addition to the settlement of the Crown lands, the energies of the Government are specially devoted to the improvement of communications between the several country districts and the market towns. New roads have been constructed, and a marked improvement has been effected in all the existing routes. There is much yet to be done, but in the still critical condition of the Colony's finances, progress must continue to be slow. A most gratifying feature in the improvement in the social condition of the people is the well-marked advance in the knowledge of the English language, especially in the country districts, where for so long the uncivilized patois has been the only known means of verbal communication. Special efforts are being made to extend the knowledge of English, with the result that among the rising generation it is becoming more familiar.

Under existing impoverished conditions the development of the undeniable resources of the Island must of necessity be slow ; but if for the next few years St. Lucia is spared from those awful visitations of flood and tempest wherein in a few hours the labours of a life-time are destroyed, the material progress of the Colony, although slow, will be, under a Divine Providence, distinctly marked.

C. A. KING-HARMAN,

Administrator.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1–3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 233.

ST. VINCENT.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 212.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046–1.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
207	British Honduras	1896
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia...	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 233.

ST. VINCENT.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 212.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,
7th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward Administrator Thompson's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, advising the transmission of the Blue Book for the Colony of St. Vincent for 1897 and embodying his Report thereon.

2. I have decided to allow this Report to go to the Colonial Office as it stands, thinking that in its separate form it will prove to be of greater public interest and more convenient as dealing exclusively with a Colony which now attracts so much notice than if embodied in one general Blue Book report on the Windward Islands, as was contemplated.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

295*—75—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

ADMINISTRATOR TO GOVERNOR.

Government House,
St. Vincent,
23rd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book for 1897, which I am transmitting to your Excellency by this mail.

The sources of Revenue remained substantially the same as they were in 1896, with the exception of a slight change in the rate of Income Tax with a view to making the incidence of that Tax slightly more equitable.

Some change was also made in the licences by abolishing the fee of 1*s.* which was levied on every licence issued and substituting for it an increase of 6*d.* for a dog licence, and making animals and carts used for estates' purposes, which had hitherto been exempt, liable for the tax.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total Revenue for the year was £24,844 17*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with a Revenue in 1896 of £26,487 2*s.* 0*d.*, and an estimated Revenue of £28,304.

Every important head of Revenue shows a falling off, chiefly due to the general depression from which the Colony has suffered; but I will refer specially to some of the more important items.

Licences for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors fell off by more than £100 and the Excise Duty on rum by more than £500, both chiefly due to depression and shortness of money, but the latter in part due to the spread of illicit distillation.

The Dog Tax realised about £75 less than was anticipated, owing to a fatal disease which broke out and caused much mortality among them.

The effect of the extension of the Tax on Horses to those used for estates' purposes was over-estimated and produced £100 less than was anticipated.

The increased Income Tax did not produce as much as was anticipated, and about £100 of Land Tax did not reach the Treasury until after the close of the year.

The decrease in Post Office receipts was due to a falling off in the abnormal demand during 1896 for St. Vincent stamps by dealers.

The Expenditure in 1897 was £27,865 19*s.* 0*d.*, against £27,591 2*s.* 1*d.* in 1896, and an estimate of £27,462 15*s.* 4*d.*

This expenditure included the cost of the administration of Crown Lands, which had hitherto been charged to a separate fund, and also an increased debt charge to provide for the deficits of past years.

In addition to these items of expenditure, the cost of making good some of the damage caused by floods at the end of 1896 had to be borne, and a heavy bill for police clothing supplied in 1896 was met in 1897.

All these items more than absorbed the money which it was hoped to save by the very considerable economies effected in the public establishments at the beginning of the year.

The net result of the year's transactions, after wiping out the balance of the old Crown Lands Account, £1,707 5*s.* 8*d.*, and borrowing £1,000 to fortify the Revenue, was that the Colony had an excess of liabilities over assets of £4,544 7*s.* 4*d.*

Public Debt.

The Public Debt, which stood at £19,160 at the end of 1896, was £19,100 at the end of 1897.

As already stated, £1,000 was borrowed during the year to fortify the Revenue, and this completed the whole sum of £5,000 authorised by "The Loan Ordinance, 1895." The Sinking Fund on this debt amounted to £610 at the end of the year.

Another £1,000 was borrowed under the provisions of "The Crown Lands Roads Loan Ordinance, 1896," but only £182 was spent, as will be explained later.

Local Revenues.

These, I think, call for no comment. The various local bodies raised about sufficient to meet their ordinary expenditure, and no more.

Public Works.

Beyond the ordinary expense of maintaining the various highways and public buildings, the only important works undertaken during the year were the completion of the new line of byeway

in the Belair Valley, and the completion of the road in the Perseverance Valley to Crown Lands, both of which were referred to in the Report for 1896, and making good some of the damage caused by the floods in 1896. The latter involved, besides the repairs to the surface of roads, and removal of land-slips, the virtual re-building of three retaining walls, re-building one bridge and effecting extensive repairs in another, and this was all done for £410.

Extensive repairs were carried out on one of the old Ordnance buildings, for which a permanent tenant was found.

LEGISLATION.

The number of Ordinances passed during the year was very considerable.

The legislation to bring into effect the many changes contemplated in 1898 involved the passing of a number of short Ordinances at the end of the year to transfer duties to other officials, but the actual details of these changes will be more conveniently dealt with in the Report for 1898, when the changes were effected.

The most important Ordinances were the two dealing with Income and Land Tax ; the former imposed the increased taxes for a year, and the latter made them permanent.

"The Excise Ordinance" was required to strengthen the hands of the Police in dealing with the spread of illicit distillation.

Ordinance No. 4 was a most important Ordinance, having for its object the regulation of the payment of wages to labourers. It makes an ordinary day labourer's wages payable fortnightly in cash, instead of monthly as had been the custom, and stops, as far as it is possible to do so, the various forms of the "Truck" system, which had begun to be practised.

"The Charcoal Ordinance" repealed the old laws which were nominally supposed to check the illicit making of charcoal, but really did not do so, and only imposed irritating fees and restrictions on those who had every right to make it. It is now a penal offence to make charcoal on any land without the owner's permission.

"The Kingstown Board Ordinance" establishes a corporate body, partly elected and partly nominated, to superintend the affairs of the town. The Board was not constituted until late in the year, and its real work may be said to have begun this year. It is, no doubt, a step in the right direction that the inhabitants of the town should have the responsibility of managing its affairs. The Ordinance consolidates no less than eleven Acts and Ordinances.

"The Infirm Paupers and Immigrants Regulation Ordinance" is one which all the neighbouring Colonies have found it necessary to pass, and St. Vincent, for its own protection, had to do the same.

"The Land Credit Ordinance" is in the same form as the Ordinances passed in the other Colonies of the Windward Islands to encourage the introduction of capital.

"The Trustee Ordinance" and "the Probates (British and Colonial) Ordinance" are useful pieces of legislation on the subjects with which they deal.

OFFICERS.

I was absent from the Colony from the 1st of February to the 7th September; until the 28th May at Grenada, as Administrator of the Windward Islands, and from the 29th May on leave of absence in England.

During that time the administration of the local Government was carried on by Mr. Drayton, the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, to whom my acknowledgments are due.

Mr. Griffith, the Treasurer of the Colony, was retired on a pension from the 1st January 1897, and the duties of Treasurer were added to those of the Administrator, Colonial Secretary, and Registrar General.

On the abolition, from the 1st January 1897, of the separate staff for the administration of Crown Lands, Mr. Musgrave reverted from his temporary post of Superintendent of Crown Lands to his substantive post of Chief Clerk in the Government office, and the Colonial Engineer became Superintendent of Crown Lands, in addition to his other duties, thus reverting to an arrangement which existed some years ago.

The post of Supernumerary Clerk in the Government office was done away with, and Mr. Hutchinson acted as clerk to the Colonial Engineer.

The experiment was tried of amalgamating the duties of Inspector of Schools and Audit Clerk, and Mr. F. W. Griffith was appointed to the combined offices; Mr. Mackie, the former audit clerk, became clerk in the Treasury, in place of Mr. H. A. Lewis, who was transferred to the Magistrate's office, replacing Mr. W. E. Davis, for whom employment was provided as a landing waiter.

Mr. L. O. Chitty, the Inspector of Schools, for whom no place could be found in St. Vincent under the new arrangements, was transferred to Jamaica.

ST. VINCENT. 1897.

To increase the efficiency of the Treasury a new office of Supervisor of Customs was provisonally created, to which the Chief of Police was appointed. This virtually divided the Treasury Department into an indoor and outdoor branch, both under the supervision of the Treasurer.

Mr. Trafford, the Chief Justice, retired on a pension on the 3rd November 1897, with a view to a combination of offices, which took effect in 1898, and Mr. Hazell, who had been acting for some time, was appointed Attorney General at a reduced salary.

The general effect of all these changes is apparent in the reduction of expenditure on "personal emoluments" from £12,660 12*s.* 4*d.* in 1896 to £11,982 18*s.* 1*d.* in 1897.

PENSIONS.

The pension list is increased by the addition of the Chief Justice's Pension at the rate of £544 8*s.* 11*d.* per annum, and that of the Treasurer at the rate of £228 8*s.* 3*d.*

POPULATION.

The estimated population is put down as 46,112, after allowing for the natural increase since the census in 1891, but we have no records of emigration, and I feel sure that the population is over-estimated in those figures, though I have no data from which to give correct ones.

EDUCATION.

In the elementary schools the full effects of the rules passed in 1893 were felt in the Government contributions, which amounted to £2,019.

There was much complaint from the teachers that they were not being paid as much under the new rules as they were under the old; and this was so for the first year or so after the new rules came into operation, but now the grants earned by the schools have become so large that the Board of Education has had to take steps to reduce them.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the Imports into the Colony was £70,823 11*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £71,489 11*s.* 9*d.* in 1896, or a falling off of less than one per cent. The imports from the United States of America appear to have decreased, while those

from the British West Indies have increased, but this is due to the fact that American goods were received through Barbados and other Colonies, instead of by direct importations from America.

The increase of trade with British North America is noticeable. It was represented in 1896 by an importation of pitch-pine valued at £991 and an export of 53 puncheons of molasses. In 1897 the imports from British North America are valued at £1,704, and are composed of some food-stuffs, in addition to various kinds of lumber, while the value of exports amounted to £4,513, composed of sugar, molasses and arrowroot, and 18 per cent. of the sugar and molasses exported went to Canada.

The various items on the import list, as a rule, follow the items of 1896 so closely that they require but little comment.

Most food-stuffs show a slight increase, with the exception of flour, of which nearly 1,000 barrels less was imported than in 1896. The import of whisky shows no falling off, but gin and other wines are less. Unmanufactured tobacco, which is the kind usually smoked by the poorer people, shows a slight increase in quantity.

The total Export trade was valued at £68,935, against £67,392 in 1896, or an increase of rather more than 2 per cent.

Besides the increase of trade with British North America to which I have already drawn attention, the only noticeable feature is the decrease in the trade with Venezuela, which shows a falling off of nearly 73 per cent. It is a precarious trade and, as far as the vessels engaged in it are concerned, not quite legitimate, and probably stricter supervision in Venezuela has checked it.

The exports of sugar rose in value from £21,512 to £25,591, and sugar and its products represented nearly 43 per cent of the total exports of the Colony.

In arrowroot there was a decrease, both in quantity and value, due to a rather half-hearted attempt on the part of producers to regulate the supply of arrowroot rather more in accord with the demand for it. The effect for a time was to raise the price to a slight extent in the English market.

The export of fruit, vegetables, and live stock shows a tendency to decrease in value, which is unfortunate. It means that the poorer classes are getting smaller prices in other colonies for their produce, and that their means of livelihood is therefore less.

The most satisfactory feature in the returns is the continued steady increase in the production of cocoa and nutmegs.

The export of cocoa increased from 194,037 lbs., valued at £3,209, to 264,192 lbs., valued at £4,514, and that of nutmegs from 15,026 lbs., valued at £685, to 24,628 lbs., valued at £1,084.

Of the other staple products of the Colony, whale oil shows a considerable increase in quantity, but not so satisfactory an increase in value, while cotton and cotton seed are both less. Cassava starch has increased both in quantity and value.

SHIPPING.

The tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 248,877 tons, compared with 273,245 tons in 1896. The decrease is in steamers, of which 82, with a tonnage of 111,422 tons, visited the Colony, against 94, with a tonnage of 123,612 tons, in 1896. A great part of this decrease was due to the less frequent visits of the Quebec Line of steamers from New York, which, as a rule, deposited their St. Vincent cargo at Barbados, to be brought from there by sailing vessel.

AGRICULTURE AND GRANTS OF LAND.

The only satisfactory feature in agriculture is the gradual increase in the production of commodities other than sugar and arrowroot, and especially of cocoa and nutmegs, to which I have already referred.

Although the planting of cocoa has not been going on by leaps and bounds, there has been a steady increase in the trees planted year by year for some years past, both on the large estates and in such small holdings as there are. The reports from the Curator, which have been submitted from time to time, give many encouraging examples of the success of these plantations.

Tobacco has been cultivated with success, on a small scale, in several places, and in the Botanical Garden a considerable experiment was made. The "mole cricket" was the greatest enemy the Curator had to deal with, but a large number of plants were reaped and cured, and the whole crop found a ready local market.

That more than £600 is now paid for imported tobacco of the coarsest kind shows that there is a local market for tobacco, which should be remunerative, while growers are learning how to cure tobacco sufficiently well to make it an article for export.

The cultivation of coffee is also gradually increasing, but our imports of coffee for local consumption are still worth more than £400, and there is no export of it at present.

At the end of 1896 no canes were planted for the 1898 crop, but towards the end of 1897 a considerable area of land was put under cultivation for the crop of 1899. This afforded

a considerable amount of employment to labourers, and the Revenue felt the benefit of it in improved collections for Import Duty in the later months of the year.

As I have already noted, an attempt was made to restrict the output of arrowroot, but it was but a small one, and on the first symptom of a rise in price everyone rushed to take advantage of it. Whether arrowroot shall be a remunerative crop or not seems to be entirely in the hands of the St. Vincent growers, and it only requires a little agreement between them to effect it. For the present it seems likely that the English buyer will reap all the advantages of the local competition among half-a-dozen individuals.

The production of Cassava starch continues to be remunerative to the small growers who produce it, and there is considerable demand for it in the neighbouring Colonies.

But little has been done in the Crown Lands Department during the year. A few new grants were made, but nothing was done towards getting in the large arrears of instalments of purchase money, and the holders of the land received but little supervision. The disastrous floods of 1896 disheartened a good many of the cultivators, but most of those who did not lose everything are again taking an interest in their holdings.

Proposals for new regulations for grants for Crown lands were under consideration at the beginning of the year, but the visit of the Royal Commissioners and their subsequent recommendations rendered it advisable to postpone dealing with the matter until the whole question of Peasant Proprietors has been gone into.

The Crown Lands scheme has been the subject of much criticism, and the inaccessibility of most of the land has been one of the fairest points of that criticism. To remove this objection, it was proposed to connect the most important areas of Crown Lands with the existing communication by roads adapted to the country which they would traverse. The estimated cost was £3,000, and, as a first instalment, £1,000 was borrowed and one road was completed in 1897. It is rather more than two miles in length and cost £182. Other work in connection with this scheme has been suspended pending the consideration of the whole question of Crown Lands.

Whatever may be the disadvantages of Crown Lands from the point of view of suitability of soil and accessibility, there is no doubt that they met a crying want when the scheme was first started, and, in face of opposition from many quarters, a large number of people are now enjoying the fruits of their own labour, and have at least been able to provide themselves with some of the necessaries of life, while the more prudent and industrious are receiving a certain amount of money, which is annually increasing, by the sale of their more permanent products.

PRISONS AND CRIME.

Partly owing to the cause mentioned in the Report for 1896, —the emigration of adult males—the admissions to prison show a large decrease. The average daily number in prison was 24·29 only, against 34 in 1896, and the number of persons committed 171, against 231.

The number of offences reported to the police is rather higher than it was in 1896, and the number of persons acquitted is also higher.

Prædial larceny shows no diminution in the statistics, and I fear that these figures represent but a small percentage of the cases which occur. It may be that people will respect the produce of a small holder more than they do that of a large land owner, but, unless they do so, I fear that one of the chief difficulties with which peasant proprietors will have to contend will be the protection of their holdings from the devastations of those who "reap where they have not sown."

HOSPITALS.

The work of the Colonial Hospital continued to increase, and the difficulty of providing for the deserving applicants for admission was greater than ever.

The daily average in hospital was 62·92, against 58·82 in 1896, and the average stay of the patients in hospital was longer than in 1896. Many of the cases were aggravated by faulty and insufficient diet, and a large part of the hospital treatment consisted mainly in building them up with nutritious food. The ulcer cases showed a considerable increase, and they, too, are to a large extent caused by unnutritious diet.

The Pauper Asylum is now chiefly devoted to providing a shelter for those who have received all the benefit they are likely to get from hospital treatment but have no place to go to when they are discharged. In many instances they are incurable cases, and they never leave the asylum alive.

The daily average in the asylum was 100·22, compared with 90·68 in 1896. The overcrowding in the building is a serious question, but we have no money to provide increased accommodation, and it requires a hard heart to refuse admittance to deserving persons who have no other possible shelter.

The Georgetown Casualty Hospital continued to do good work on a small scale, but want of money prevented anything being done towards improving the accommodation and appliances there. I should much like to see the utility of the institution increased.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

The total rainfall for the year was 109·62 inches, which is slightly below the average of the last seven years (114·68 inches). I am able to record that it is the only year during my three years' residence in the Colony that no damage was done in any part of the Colony by floods caused by excessive rainfall.

The only disaster to be recorded is the small cyclone which visited a portion of the north-east part of the Colony in June, and within a limited area did some damage.

The latter part of the year was abnormally hot, and the maximum thermometer at the Botanical Garden recorded 88 degrees, which is the highest record for some years past.

SAVINGS BANK.

The total amount to the credit of Savings Bank Depositors at the end of the year was £8,771, divided among 1,047 depositors, against £8,455, divided among 1,062 depositors, in 1896.

GENERAL.

The year through which we have passed has been a critical one, and there is certainly no progress to record. It is said that in these days things cannot stand still, and that they must go forward or backward, and there is much that is true in this of communities and countries, as well as of commercial and other undertakings.

Were it not for this, I should be inclined to say that in 1897 St. Vincent had been more or less stationary. There has certainly been no progress, but I cannot see that in the main there has been any retrogression.

That this state of stagnation, if stagnation it be, cannot last is only too evident, and, unless the opportunity for progress shortly arises, it is terrible to contemplate what the condition of the country may become.

The visit of the Royal Commissioners was one of the leading events of the year, and their recommendation for the amelioration of the existing state of affairs are before the public and Her Majesty's Government. It would be presumptuous on my part to make any recommendations for dealing with the problems which face us in St. Vincent, when those problems have been so thoroughly grasped and ably dealt with by Her Majesty's Commissioners.

Many of their recommendations are now in course of being given effect to, and I have every hope that they will bring back to this Colony a portion, at least, of that prosperity it once enjoyed.

I cannot close this report without referring to the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, which was observed by all classes of the community with every demonstration of loyalty and thankfulness.

I have, &c.,

HARRY THOMPSON,

Administrator.

His Excellency Sir ALFRED MOLONEY, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 252.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 214.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

December, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—9046–20.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–8

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 252.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 214.)

ADMINISTRATOR STEWART to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Seychelles,
23rd August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book for 1897.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1897 amounted to Rs. 296,171 as against Rs. 243,802 in the previous year, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 47,251. It surpassed the revenue of the previous year by Rs. 52,369, and is the largest revenue ever collected in Seychelles.

The expenditure was Rs. 259,056 as against Rs. 238,178 in 1896, and was Rs. 20,889 above the estimate. The expenditure included special votes taken by Council for Rs. 9,758.

The revenue has exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 36,115.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 1,503,701 and the imports to Rs. 1,122,411.

The large increase in both exports and imports is due to the large vanilla crops of the last two years. 61,382 lbs. of vanilla, valued at Rs. 921,065, were exported last year.

PUBLIC WORKS.

A new ward styled the Victoria Ward was added to the Public Hospital last year. The roads have been kept in good repair, and the Cantonnier System has undoubtedly proved a success.

The filling in of a portion of the foreshore in Victoria is being carried out by prison labour.

1003*—75—11/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on 31st December 1897 was 18,639, whereof 9,480 were males and 9,239 females.

The births in 1897 were 618, 302 males and 316 females.

The deaths were 342.

EDUCATION.

There were 28 schools examined by the Inspector of Schools, one of which was the Government Undenominational School, the rest Grant-in-aid Schools.

The number of children examined was 2,332 against 2,214 in 1896, the average attendance for the school year being 1,706.

The sums voted for education in 1897 were :—

	Rs.
Grant-in-aid Schools	8,000
Government School	3,864
Grants to affiliated classes	1,200
or a total of	13,064

The grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Schools	6,343.94
Church of England Schools ...	1,656.06

JUDICIAL.

There were 565 criminal informations lodged in 1897.

There were 735 persons charged and 592 convicted. 135 cases were disposed of on the Civil Side and 50 in the Stipendiary Court.

There were also 118 cases dealt with in Chambers.

The first trial for murder in Seychelles took place this year before the Seychelles Court of Assizes. Three men were condemned to death. The sentence was commuted into one of imprisonment for life.

POLICE.

The Police Force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Inspector of Police.	2 Sergeants.
1 Sergeant-major.	3 Corporals and 46 men.

PRISON.

301 persons were committed to prison in 1897, of which number 19 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under 5 years, six to five years and upwards, and the remainder to less than one year.

The daily average in prison was 70.

1 death occurred.

MEDICAL.

The total number of in-patients treated at the public hospital of Mahe during 1897 was 183, being the same number as in the year 1896.

They came under the following heads :—

—	1896.	1897
Paupers	9)	83
Prisoners	11	22
P. W. D. and Police	36	18
Paying Patients	46	60
Totals	183	183

and their treatment resulted as fo'lows :—

—	1896.	1897.
Cured	88	98
Relieved	55	37
Unrelieved	19	22
Died	11	14
Remaining in Hospital	10	12
Totals	183	183

The twenty-two unrelieved patients were suffering from : paralysis 1, imbecility 9, ascites 1, old age 4, epilepsy 1, leprosy 1, dislocated hip 1, filaria 1, anœmia 1, hernia 1, fractured arms 1. 9 of the above-mentioned were sent to Curieuse Island. The others left the hospital at their own request.

The fourteen deaths were due to :—

Enteritis, collapse	1
Strangulated hernia	1
Hepatitis, collapse	1
Peritonitis	1
Dysentery	2
Fever	1
Bright's disease	3
Phthisis	2
Cirrhosis of liver	1
Old age	1
Total ...	14

SEYCHELLES, 1897.

One case of small-pox occurred in an isolated position about 3 miles from town.

In his Annual Report the Government Medical Officer writes as follows: "Thanks to the energetic measures permitted by the authorities, the Sanitary Department were enabled to take steps to arrest the spread of the small-pox, and I am glad to be able to report that the disease has been so far limited to the one case which first appeared, and I think that we need not now expect any more.

"The step which I deem to have been the most important one was the vaccination of the neighbours and the guards in charge of the sick man. The necessity for this was shown by the number of cases in which the vaccination was successful."

The number of persons treated as out-patients during the year 1897 was:—

Females	...	...	...	1,442	2,099
Males...	...	...	...	657	

against 2,368 in the year 1896.

A Public Dispensary was opened at the Public Hospital on February 15th, 1897.

The amount voted for the purchase of drugs, &c. was Rs. 1,050—and the amount received from the sales up to the 31st December 1897 is Rs. 1,700.53.

The convenience of having such an establishment is proved by the use made of it by the poor people, who have contributed the major part of the Rs. 1,700 by purchasing small quantities of drugs.

A trained nursing sister from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, at Paris, arrived in the month of August 1897, and has already rendered inestimable service in attending upon the sick at the Hospital, thereby relieving the Matron of a great amount of work and enabling her to give her full attention to the general management of the Hospital.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1897:—

1. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 13,976.32 to the service of the year 1895.

2. An Ordinance to provide for the prosecution of employers for breach of obligations towards servants when necessary.

3. An Ordinance to amend Regulation 1 of 1889, and to make further provision respecting larcenies of produce.

4. An Ordinance to repeal certain sections of the Seychelles Capital Offences Order in Council, 1892, and to enact other provisions in lieu thereof.

5. An Ordinance to levy an export duty upon guano.

6. An Ordinance to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorized to be raised by the Government of Seychelles, and to provide for the creation of Seychelles inscribed stock.

7. An Ordinance for raising the sum of twenty thousand pounds for the construction of roads.

8. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 12 of 1896, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the treatment of Convict, Vagrant, and Pauper Lepers."

9. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 7,802.18 to the service of the year 1896.

10. An Ordinance to provide for the arrest and re-instatement in the paternal domicile of absconding minors, and for the punishment of persons knowingly harbouring such minors.

11. An Ordinance to amend Regulation of Board of Civil Commissioners No. 3 of 1877, entitled "A Regulation for the Management of the Market."

12. An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Police Force in Seychelles.

13. An Ordinance to repeal Mauritius Ordinance 25 of 1875, entitled an Ordinance "to provide for the appointment of Ushers for the Seychelles Islands, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."

14. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1898.

Ecclesiastical.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles :—

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1

Church of Rome.

Bishop	1
Priests	14
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order ...	2
Marists Brothers	9
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	54

HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c., which entered Port Victoria during 1897 :—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men of War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of men.
	No. of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	
British	24	4,350	6	15,870	64	26	47,670	4,183
French	—	—	1	650	6	—	—	99
German	—	—	2	3,292	19	—	—	322
Portuguese	—	—	1	729	4	—	—	121
Norwegian	1	1,404	—	—	—	—	—	18
Total	25	5,754	10	20,541	93	26	47,670	4,743

Sixty-one vessels, manned by 4,743 men, entered Port Victoria in 1897.

—	No.	Tons.
Men of War	10	20,541
Mail Steamers	26	47,670
Merchant Vessels	25	5,754
Total	61	73,965

Year.	Men of War.				Merchant Vessels.			Mail Steamers.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	Guns.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
1896	10	18,675	1,941	96	32	9,222	443	30	70,542	2,936
1897	10	20,541	2,110	93	25	5,754	346	26	47,670	2,287
	—	+ 1,868	+ 169	— 3	— 7	— 3,468	— 97	— 4	— 22,872	— 649

Registration and Mortgage.

	Rs.
The receipts for Registration dues in 1897 amounted to	8,897.76
For Hereditary dues to	4,106.85
For Mortgage dues to	1,446.53
For Archives dues to	37.85
Total Rs.	14,488.99

as against Rs. 11,059 for 1896.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Rainfall.

The amount of rainfall during the year 1897 was 101·98, being 34·70 above the average for the previous five years.

1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
87·45	87·77	95·08	101·03	115·08

Average for six years :—98·06.

Number of days on which rain was registered :—143.

Temperature.

Highest maximum in shade 88·8 April 30th and May 1st.
Lowest minimum „ 71·8 Oct. 13th.

SAVINGS BANK.

The following statement gives the deposits and withdrawals of the Savings Bank since its establishment in 1894 :—

Year.	Balance on 1st January.	Deposits during Year.	Total 31st December.	Amounts withdrawn during year.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894 ...	Open 5th March	27,113	27,113	10,199	16,914
1895 ...	16,914	27,881	44,795	25,946	18,849
1896 ...	18,849	33,530	52,379	18,866	33,513
1897 ...	33,513.56	75,123.90	108,637.46	45,012.93	63,624.23

Crown Lands.

A valuable addition to the Crown Lands was made last year, Government having recovered the "Terrain Audibert," an estate of 120 acres in extent.

Government has also purchased a further portion of the Coco de Mer Valley, at Praslin, with the sole object of preserving the unique palm the Coco de Mer, or *Lavddicea Sechellarum*, which only grows in this part of the world.

Post.

Comparative statement showing number of letters, newspapers, parcels, &c., received and despatched during the years 1896 and 1897.

——	United Kingdom.				Other Places.				Total.	
	From.		To.		From.		To.			
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Letters	9,387	9,877	3,368	3,296	2,807	2,778	13,623	10,508	29,185	26,459
Newspapers, books, printed papers, &c.	2,813	2,803	207	176	1,273	1,230	547	384	4,840	4.593
Total ...	12,200	12,680	3,575	3,472	4,080	4,008	14,170	10,892	34,025	31,052
Parcels ...	77	113	327	384	89	160	90	76	583	733

LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS.

A loan of £20,000 for the construction and improvement of roads in Seychelles has been approved, and the services of an engineer (Mr. Waddell of the Public Works Department of Ceylon) have been placed at our disposal. The works have been commenced.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The year under review has been a remarkably prosperous one. Two good crops of vanilla have done much to enhance the welfare of the Colony, and I am glad to say that there is every sign of an abundant crop this year also.

In my last Annual Report I drew attention to the capabilities of Seychelles as a vanilla-producing country, and judging from the numerous letters of inquiry which I have received on the subject the Report has evidently been widely circulated.

Only two gentlemen have taken the practical step of coming out here to judge for themselves.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with much enthusiasm, the rejoicings lasting for a week from the 20th of June.

A public drinking fountain designed and executed by Messrs. Doulton & Co. will shortly be erected as a permanent memorial of the auspicious occasion.

H. COCKBURN STEWART,

Administrator.

No. 234.

SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 208.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

[C.—9046-2.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
206	Falkland Islands	1896
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 234.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 208.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. CARDEW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Freetown,

Sierra Leone,

10th June, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1897, which has been prepared by W. J. P. Elliott, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

F. CARDEW,

Governor.

255*—75—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1897.

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

There is no change this year.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The estimated Revenue for 1897 was £106,231, including Protectorate, afterwards revised to £101,181; the sum actually realised was £106,009.

The revenue for 1896 was £97,109; thus there is an increase in 1897 of £8,899, made up as follows :—

	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	76,888	82,887	5,999	—
Port, Harbour, &c.	3,364	3,367	3	—
Licences, &c.	5,435	4,728	—	707
Fees of Court, &c.	3,026	2,249	—	777
Post Office and Telegraphs	2,682	4,884	2,202	—
Rent of Government Property	218	199	—	19
Interest	2,658	2,763	105	—
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,761	2,809	48	—
Land Sales	69	—	—	69
Protectorate	5	2,119	2,114	—
			10,471	1,572
			1,572	
Net Increase...			£8,899	

Expenditure.

The estimated Expenditure for 1897 was £116,073, whereas the amount expended was £111,678, a saving of £4,395 having been effected.

This saving was effected principally under expenditure for

	£
Protectorate	3,524
Hospitals	945

The following return shows Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past ten years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.
	£	£	£	£
1888	63,035	63,288	—	253
1889	70,836	66,771	4,065	—
1890	73,708	63,056	10,652	—
1891	89,869	77,965	11,904	—
1892	86,866	83,852	3,014	—
1893	92,769	84,691	8,078	—
1894	98,838	93,100	5,738	—
1895	97,852	100,248	—	2,396
1896	97,109	116,183	—	19,074
1897	106,009	111,678	—	5,669

3.—Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets on the 31st December, 1897, exceeded the Liabilities by £14,046, but there is a falling off as compared with 1896, which is due to the deficit on general revenue account for 1897.

4.—Public Debt.

This remained at £25,000, to be paid off finally in June, 1898, the Sinking fund being fully sufficient for this purpose. The authorised Railway Loan of £150,000 has not yet been raised, the Crown Agents advancing pending issue.

5.—Municipality.

The Council consists of a Mayor and 14 Councillors, three of whom are appointed by the Government, the others being elected.

Its Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st October, 1897, stood as follows :—

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Office Fees	14	1	9
General Trade Licences	872	14	7½
Market Dues	300	2	11
Cemetery Fees	319	16	2
Miscellaneous Receipts and Sale of Empties	19	2	4½
Government Grant-in-Aid (from 20th August, 1896, to 30th September, 1897) at £1,800 per annum... ...	2,008	1	3
Total	£3,533	19	1

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries	615	1	0
Buildings, Constructions and Repairs...	568	7	9
Works	197	16	6¾
Sanitary...	1,186	17	2
Printing and Stationery	309	15	7¼
Street Lights, including Diamond Jubilee Illuminations	1,131	5	7
Contingency	126	4	6
Total	£4,135	8	2

The Council opened its last financial year with a balance on hand of £2,109 11*s.* 6*d.*, and its balance at the close was £1,508 2*s.* 4*d.*

No rates have as yet been levied.

6.—Military Expenditure.

The Colony does not contribute towards the up-keep of the troops.

The garrison consisted of a European detachment of Royal Artillery, a Native Battery of West African Artillery, a detachment of Fortress Engineers, and a battalion of the West India Regiment.

The troops receive an allowance as compensation for Customs duties paid by them. This amounted to £947 7*s.* 9*d.*, as against £1,279 14*s.* 6*d.* in 1896.

There is no Militia.

7.—The Sierra Leone Frontier Force.

The establishment of this force in 1897 continued the same as last year, except that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State authorised an additional 50 men being enrolled towards the end of the year for a special purpose.

A detachment consisting of 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 12 privates, and a bugler, or 15 in all, proceeded to England on the 14th May to take part in the celebrations held in London in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign. They were all presented with the Jubilee Medal, and their conduct while in England was very favourably reported on. They arrived back on the 23rd July.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any importance were carried out this year. A new Police Station was built in the Kissy Road, at a cost of £450.

The total sum expended during 1897 was as follows :—

	£
Public Works, Extraordinary	1,848
Public Works, Recurrent	7,085
Total	£8,933

9.—LEGISLATION.

There were 17 Ordinances passed during 1897, as against 34 in the previous year.

The only Ordinances calling for remark were as follows :—

No. 9, an Ordinance to amend "The Protectorate Jurisdiction "Delimitation Ordinance, 1896," passed on the 8th June. This makes provision for the cost incurred by any plaintiff in any cause which was instituted in the Supreme Court of the Colony, and which became abated by virtue of "The Pro-"tectorate Jurisdiction Delimitation Ordinance, 1896," to be the plaintiff's costs in any cause which such plaintiff may institute in the Court of the Protectorate in respect of the same cause of action.

No. 11, an Ordinance to repeal an Ordinance intituled "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1896," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

This Ordinance was passed under directions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

10.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes occurred in the Civil Establishment of the Colony during the year 1897 :—

His Excellency Colonel F. Cardew, Governor, left for England on the 4th May on the usual six months leave of absence.

Colonel J. E. W. S. Caulfeild was sworn in as Administrator on 4th May.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore acted as Deputy Governor from 12th to 18th June, and administered the Government from 5th August to 10th September during the absence of Colonel Caulfeild, invalided to Grand Canary.

11.—PENSIONS.

The sum paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances in 1897 was £3,314 14*s.* 6*d.*, as against £3,543 14*s.* 10*d.* in 1896.

12.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been no census taken since 1891.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of births registered was 1,241, and deaths 1,664; as against births 1,541, and deaths 1,632, in the previous year.

RETURN of BIRTHS and DEATHS for the YEARS 1888 to 1897.

Period.	No. of Births.	No. of Deaths.	Remarks.
1888	1,600	1,432	
1889	1,219	1,239	
1890	1,253	1,425	
1891	1,328	1,374	
1892	1,218	1,403	
1893	1,279	1,308	
1894	1,339	1,518	
1895	1,440	1,508	
1896	1,541	1,632	
1897	1,241	1,664	

13.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are about 130 places of worship belonging to the various Christian denominations in the Colony, and, according to the last returns, about 42,000 persons professing Christianity.

Several missionary societies are working within the Protectorate, besides missions from the native churches in Sierra Leone. The principal societies are the C.M.S. and the American Soudan Mission and two other American societies whose

head-quarters are at Shengeh and Rotefunk respectively; the two latter Societies, in addition to Gospel work, are imparting an excellent industrial training to the natives.

14.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools inspected and "visited" was 72, as against 67 last year; 62 of these are on the annual grant list. Of the five visited, two have been received by the Board of Education, and are to be inspected for the first time for a grant next year. One (the Mohammedan School, Fourah Bay) receives a special quarterly grant.

The number of children present at these inspections and visits was 7,312, as against 6,850 in previous year, viz., 4,050 boys and 3,262 girls.

The enrolment for the year, according to the returns of the school managers, was 8,416—*i.e.* 4,423 boys and 3,993 girls, and the average attendance for the year was 3,163 boys and 2,720 girls, or a total 5,883, being 70 per cent. of the roll number.

The amounts of grants-in-aid earned by the assisted schools for all the subjects for which grants are allowed was £1,444 18*s.* 2*d.* as against £1,345 14*s.* 11½*d.* in previous year, showing an increase of £99 3*s.* 2½*d.*

The following are the heads under which grants have been made :—

——	1896.			1897.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*a.*
Average Attendance	523	14	0	550	18	0
Industrial Training		—		25	0	0
For those in Junior Standards...	44	19	6	71	0	6
Standards Subjects (Elementary)	431	8	0	446	8	0
Do. (Optional)	16	16	0	22	12	0
Needlework	103	0	0	102	2	0
Good Passes	2	6	0	2	6	6
Organisation and Discipline	119	2	3	139	0	0
Merit Grant	91	10	0	98	0	6
Special Grant (Isles de Los)	50	0	0	50	0	0

The increase in the merit grant-in-aid for 1896 and 1897 is due to higher pecuniary inducement being offered for merit.

There has been little or no improvement in the standard of education during the past ten years, principally owing to want of efficiency, knowledge, and training in imparting the same on the part of the teachers.

The low rate of salary for teachers does not offer a sufficient inducement to young men to follow teaching as a profession.

A table showing particulars of education for the past ten years is hereunder given :—

Year.	No. of Schools Inspected or Examined.	No. of Scholars on Register.	Average Attendance.	No. of Scholars Inspected or Examined.	No. of Teachers Examined.	Grant earned.
						£ s. d.
1888	67	8,543	5,966	6,709	34	761 19 3
1889	69	9,222	6,498	6,984	28	805 16 0
1890–1	71	8,818	5,974	6,912	—	811 12 6
1892	72	8,526	5,984	6,856	9	711 5 9
1893	61	8,102	5,943	6,636	—	854 14 0
1894	62	8,389	5,956	7,014	7	988 16 0
1895	64	8,337	6,033	6,826	14	932 7 0
1896	67	8,280	5,926	6,850	20	1,345 14 11½
1897	72	8,416	6,355	7,312	17	1,444 18 2

The 3rd Annual Exhibition of school work was held at the Wilberforce Hall on the 16th January and opened by His Excellency Sir F. Cardew.

The exhibits were on the whole fairly satisfactory, but were very much less than last year. This was in a measure due to the fact that some of the secondary schools did not send anything, and that the Technical School had no stall, as on previous occasion.

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

15. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The Imports for the past year were valued at £457,389, a decrease of £37,299 as compared with value in 1896, which was £494,688. The decrease being principally on importations of :—

——	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and Porter	4,134	2,807	—	1,327
Ammunition	2,501	113	—	2,388
Apparel	9,189	10,410	1,221	—
Beads	8,212	7,159	—	1,053
Boots and Shoes	1,960	3,244	1,284	—
Brandy	1,071	1,375	304	—
Building Materials	2,362	44	—	2,318
Calabashes	1,599	767	—	832
Cement	863	2,879	2,016	—
Cigars	1,212	1,634	422	—
Coals	16,651	13,083	—	3,568
Cordials	308	409	101	—
Cotton Goods	175,095	160,012	—	15,083
Country Cloths	2,500	2,925	425	—
Flour	10,131	9,801	—	330
Geneva	5,288	4,825	—	463
Gunpowder	3,480	2,106	—	1,374
Guns	1,252	1,019	—	233
Haberdashery	21,808	16,779	—	5,029
Hardware	38,957	42,624	3,667	—
Jewellery	772	379	—	393
Carried forward ...			9,440	34,391

Imports—continued.

—	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	—	—	9,440	34,391
Lard	1,920	1,509	—	411
Lumber	8,324	2,229	—	6,095
Medicines	5,093	3,427	—	1,666
Military Stores	2,922	10,658	7,736	—
Musical Instruments ...	1,449	1,190	—	259
Oil, Kerosine	5,065	3,136	—	1,926
Provisions	13,041	11,507	—	1,534
Rubber	40	1,422	1,382	—
Salt	11 567	9,000	—	2,567
Silk, manufactured	1,614	2,826	1,212	—
Specie...	22,389	6,045	—	16,344
Sugar	5,500	5,993	493	—
Telegraph Materials ...	2,686	114	—	2,572
Tobacco	19,147	24,654	5,507	—
Whiskey and other Spirits...	3,894	4,593	699	—
Wines	4,235	5,730	1,495	—
Woollen Goods	7,371	10,253	2,882	—
			30,846	67,765
Decrease on Sundry Goods				380
				68,145
Increase				30,846
Net Decrease				37,299

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

The following table of Imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries shows comparative values for the past ten years :—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888	190,529	1,211	58,407	250,147
1889	210,800	1,110	65,871	277,781
1890	248,401	1,628	65,475	315,504
1891	286,772	1,980	77,651	366,403
1892	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117
1893	325,829	5,543	86,094	417,466
1894	381,248	11,012	85,765	478,025
1895	336,414	5,755	85,169	427,338
1896	403,053	12,452	79,183	494,688
1897	377,508	6,097	73,784	457,389

The following table shows Customs receipts for the past ten years :—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Other Receipts.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888	8,314	35,429	7,487	51,230
1889	9,317	39,717	7,445	56,479
1890	12,330	41,480	6,507	60,317
1891	17,770	52,228	4,429	74,427
1892	17,510	51,895	4,564	73,969
1893	17,838	54,333	4,211	76,382
1894	19,140	60,661	5,007	84,808
1895	17,106	65,474	4,939	87,519
1896	22,094	52,669	4,565	79,328
1897	24,386	58,489	4,218	87,093

N.B.—The rise under the *ad valorem* duty in years 1896 and 1897 is due to increased rate of tariff, namely, 7½ to 10 per cent., brought into operation on 1st August 1896.

The fall under Specific in 1896 and rise again in 1897 is consequent on increased tariff on spirits to three shillings per liquid gallon, in January 1896, which caused merchants to previously withdraw spirits from bond in large quantities at old rate of duty; subsequently demands increased when stock became consumed.

Exports.

The value of Exports was £400,748, being a decrease of £48,285 as against 1896, which was £449,033, due partly to less African produce being brought to Freetown from the Northern Rivers included in French Guinea, and partly to the Poro Law being put in force in the inland districts during the early part of the year.

Subjoined is a ten years' comparative table :—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888	166,569	17,651	154,823	339,043
1889	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656
1892	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451
1893	166,055	30,480	202,129	398,664
1894	196,171	24,873	205,455	426,499
1895	206,873	21,792	223,939	452,604
1896	203,495	21,895	223,643	449,033
1897	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748

SIERRA LEONE. 1897.

Customs Revenue.

The total Customs receipts in 1897 were £87,093, an increase of £7,765 as against receipts in 1896, which were £79,328.

The increase is consequent upon more duty derived on importations as under :—

——	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and porter	572	425	—	147
Brandy	299	366	67	—
Cigars	722	913	191	—
Cordials	194	215	21	—
Geneva	5,603	6,556	953	—
Guns	89	157	68	—
Gunpowder	378	308	—	70
Hardware	2,570	2,284	—	286
Lumber	488	147	—	341
Oil, Kerosine	5,096	3,546	—	1,550
Rum	10,547	12,873	2,326	—
Salt	1,199	1,848	649	—
Sugar	1,658	1,638	—	20
Tobacco	17,744	21,148	3,404	—
Whiskey and other spirits ...	4,169	4,537	368	—
Wines	911	1,008	97	—
			8,144	2,414
Increase on goods liable to *ad valorem* duty ...			2,035	
			10,179	
Decrease			2,414	
Net Increase			£7,765	

16.—SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1897 was :—

——	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	313	7,720
Steam do.	373	534,401
Total	686	542,121

The number of vessels cleared was :—

——	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	335	8,282
Steam do	373	534,342
Total	708	542,624

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 was, steam vessels 1,068,743, sailing vessels 16,002, giving a total of 1,084,745 tons.

Subjoined is a ten years' comparative table :—

Year.	Entered and Cleared.		
	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1888	28,368	489,313	517,681
1889	20,286	568,885	589,171
1890	27,242	652,267	679,509
1891	28,535	813,988	842,523
1892	23,675	777,020	800,695
1893	26,481	720,031	746,512
1894	21,860	940,186	962,046
1895	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745

It will be observed that, in the past ten years, the aggregate tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared at the port has gradually increased to more than double the tonnage in 1888. This is due to more lines of steamers having made Sierra Leone a port of call, and the African Steamship Company and British and African Steam Navigation Company having increased their fleets as well as the size of their steamers.

Sailing vessels are not now so much used.

17.—AGRICULTURE.

There was no Agricultural Exhibition held this year, but an inspection of farms was made by the Curator assisted by some native gentlemen.

The Botanic Station has improved considerably, attention being turned principally to the cultivation of economic plants.

The rainfall for the year 1897 was 156·51 inches, as against 176·07 in 1896.

18.—GAOLS AND PRISONS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the gaols of the Colony during the year was :—

——	1897.	1896.
Freetown Gaol	479	532
Sherbro'	49	88
Waterloo	30	44
Total...	558	664

The number of prisoners sentenced during the year to penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 353, as against 402 in 1896, and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 126. The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1897 was 479, viz. :—441 men, 30 women, and 8 juveniles ; as against 532, *i.e.* 501 men, 24 women, and 7 juveniles, in 1896.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 164 ; the number of admissions to the gaol hospital was 72, the daily average on the sick list was 21, and there were 11,489 attendances on out-patients.

The total cost of the prison up-keep during the year was £3,643 6*s.* 1*d.*, as against £2,873 4*s.* 10¾*d.* in 1896, exclusive of repairs and prison officers' uniforms.

Prisons.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1888	637	74	8	719
1889	889	62	4	955
1890	577	46	—	623
1891	610	51	—	661
1892	555	31	9	595
1893	368	30	16	414
1894	505	29	6	540
1895	467	33	8	508
1896	501	24	7	532
1897	441	30	8	479

NOTE.—The above figures include convicted, untried, and prisoners committed into the Freetown Gaol during the year.

Gaol Hospital.

Year.	Total number of Prisoners in Gaol.	"Treated" in Hospital.	Total attendances on Out-Patients.	Deaths.
1888	965	121	689	6
1889	1,139	100	1,308	1
1890	782	142	4,521	—
1891	789	140	6,137	3
1892	736	246	8,310	5
1893	542	145	11,917	9
1894	637	79	Not known	—
1895	621	58	5,608	1
1896	674	68	7,974	1
1897	649	77	11,489	7

19.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There were 1,206 persons charged before the Police Magistrate's Court during the year. Of this number 459 were discharged for want of prosecution, 142 discharged on the merits of the case after a hearing; 538 summarily convicted, showing a decrease of 118 as compared with previous year; and 67 referred to the sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 74 in 1896.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 153, showing 2 less than last year.

Larceny	299
Burglary	46
Drunkenness	23
Other offences	314

Sherbro.

The District Commissioner reports as follows:—

The total number of apprehensions effected by the police was 114, as compared with 226 in 1896, or a decrease of 49·55 per cent., and if compared with 1895 the decrease is still more pronounced, being 56·36 per cent.

The total number of larceny cases was 45; of these 28 convictions resulted.

The returns, on the whole, show a great falling-off in crime within the immediate area of the Judicial Courts of Bonthe for the year under review, which is most satisfactory.

There were, however two very brutal murders, which occurred during the year 1897, whereby three persons' lives were lost, but it is very satisfactory to learn that there was no murder case connected with the Human Leopard Society, which it is hoped has been stamped out.

20.—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,435, viz.:—1,086 males and 349 females; and the number of deaths 205, viz.:—150 males, and 55 females.

The sanitary condition of the hospital was fairly satisfactory, but the building is old and not up to modern requirements.

21.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

There were 13 admissions during the year, as against 19 in 1896, and 9 deaths, as against 9 deaths in 1896.

22.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Almshouses or other Charitable Institutions; the Colonial Government votes £400 annually towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners, one being a Government Officer.

23.—RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &c.

The Sierra Leone Railway.

Construction commenced in January, 1896. The line is now open for transport of material for 11½ miles, and rails are down for 20 miles, but, owing to 7 large viaducts having to be completed between 11½ and 17½ miles through transport by rail is not yet possible.

These viaducts are expected to be finished by the end of March, 1898, when the line will be open for transport to Waterloo, 20 miles distant from Freetown, and by this time the last portion of the 1st section of the railway to Songo Town will be constructed.

It is expected that the whole of the first section, from Freetown to Songo Town, will be completed and open for traffic about August 1898. An extension of the line to Rotifunk, a further distance of 25 miles, will then be taken in hand, as well as, it is hoped, the proposed pier at Government Wharf, alongside of which ocean-going steamers will be able to take in and discharge cargo.

The health of the large staff of Europeans employed upon the railway has been fairly satisfactory, only one death having occurred during the last twelve months.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

A committee was appointed early in the year to consider the best and most suitable manner in which to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the Colony, and on the 4th June

SIERRA LEONE, 1897.

an Extraordinary number of the "Sierra Leone Royal Gazette" was published, giving a detail of the arrangements made.

On Sunday, June 20th, there was held Divine Service of Thanksgiving in all the churches throughout the Colony.

Monday and Tuesday, the 21st and 22nd of June, were observed as general holidays. On Tuesday, the 22nd of June, a special service was held in the Cathedral at 8 A.M., at which all public officers and others attended, and after the service a ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of a Jubilee park, to be called Victoria Park, and in the afternoon a levée was held at Government House.

In addition to these arrangements, all the school children and the poor of Freetown and the districts were entertained. Fortunately, the weather was very fine, and every arrangement passed off satisfactorily.

The Public Health.

The public health was not so good during 1897; in May and June there was a large amount of sickness both amongst the Europeans and Natives.

There was an outbreak of small-pox in the Western District, and special means were taken by the Government, and considerable expense incurred in dealing with this outbreak. A temporary hospital was erected, nurses engaged, and vaccination extensively carried out.

The number of deaths among Europeans was 19, as against 11 in the previous year, and six in 1895.

Fever :—

Remittent	4
Remittent Malarial	3
Bilious Remittent	3
Bilious Malarial	1
Malarial	5
Blackwater	1
Hœmaturic	1
Suicide while temporarily insane	1
Total	19

The Protectorate.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate, which was derived from fines, forfeitures, fees of Court, spirit and store licences, amounted to £2,119 15*s.* 6*d.* as against an Expenditure of £5,796 16*s.* 4*d.* for administration, exclusive of the expenses of the Frontier Police Force, £21,229 14*s.* 5*d.*, and Department of Native Affairs, £2,661 1*s.* 7*d.*, which amounts should properly be charged against the revenue of the Protectorate.

It is estimated that as soon as the house-tax has been enforced throughout the Protectorate the total revenue derived will be sufficient to meet the total expenditure ; the Koinadugu and Pangoma Districts are exempted for the present from the house-tax.

W. J. P. ELLIOTT,

Colonial Secretary.

Freetown, Sierra Leone,

9th June, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 273.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 234.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C. 9498–7.] *Price 2d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
247	Grenada	1897
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados...	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia...	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
270	Malta	,,
271	Gold Coast	,,
272	Trinidad	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics.

No. 273.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 234.)

ACTING GOVERNOR MAJOR NATHAN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Fort Thornton, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
22nd April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

M. NATHAN,

Acting Governor.

---

367 *—75—9/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The estimated revenue for 1898 was £116,400, but the actual receipts were £117,681 18*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase on the year of £1,281 18*s.* 3*d.*

The revenue for 1898 is the highest that has been received since the existence of the Colony, and, as compared with that of the previous year, there is an increase of £11,673 1*s.* 3*d.* The following comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1897 and 1898 shows that there has been an increase under nearly every head in 1898, but these increases do not call for any particular notice except in the case of the Protectorate. As far as practicable the accounts of the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate are kept separate from those of the Colony. The sources of revenue are: Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts, Store and Liquor Licenses, and House Tax.

The marked increase in the revenue of the Protectorate in 1898 over 1897 is due to the imposition of the house tax; on the other hand, there is a great falling off in the receipts for licenses as compared with the previous year, in consequence of the native rising in the Protectorate.

——	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs	82,887 5 9	84,592 14 6	1,705 8 9	—
Port Harbour, &c.	3,367 5 0	3,473 11 0	106 6 0	—
Licenses, &c.	4,728 4 1	5,263 3 9	534 19 8	—
Fees of Court, &c.	2,249 16 3	2,106 2 5	—	143 13 10
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	4,884 3 5	4,916 2 5	32 7 11	—
Rent of Government Property	199 18 8	237 17 6	37 18 10	—
Interest	2,763 2 2	2,071 17 10	—	691 4 4
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,809 6 2	6,971 11 3	4,162 5 1	—
and Sales	—	294 10 0	294 10 0	—
Protectorate	2,119 15 6	7,753 18 8	5,634 3 2	—
Totals £	106,008 17 0	117,681 18 3	12,507 19 5	834 18 2

The estimated expenditure for 1898, including special votes, was £118,039 5*s.* 6*d.*, whereas the sum actually expended was £121,112 8*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase on the estimates of £3,073 2*s.* 8*d.* The increase on the expenditure for 1897 was £9,434 10*s.*

As the revenue for 1898 was the highest on record, so was the expenditure for the same year. This increased expenditure is mainly due to circumstances connected with the insurrection in the Protectorate.

The following table gives the chief heads under which there was an increase in the expenditure :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	608	15	0
Increase in the number of troops drawing the usual allowance. Drawbacks and refund of duties.			
Legal Department	375	6	3
Salary and expenses of Deputy Judge unestimated. Less savings under other heads.			
Civil Police	604	16	10
Special constables employed in Freetown during disturbances. Maintenance of criminals.			
Prisons	912	18	1
Excess in number of prisoners to be maintained.			
Miscellaneous Services	1,839	9	0
Protectorate	1,380	0	0
Military expeditions.			

Deficit.

The deficit for 1898 of £3,430 9*s.* 11*d.* will be met from the Reserve Fund.

The, on the whole, progressive increase in the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years—as shown in the following table—is due in the case of revenue to improved trade consequent

on developments in the Protectorate, and in the case of expenditure to the necessary outlay connected with the opening up and proclamation of the Protectorate.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	98,838	93,100
1895	97,852	100,248
1896	97,109	116,183
1897	106,009	111,678
1898	117,682	121,112

Taxation.

It was estimated that the tax would amount to £8,000, and this sum has been more than realized. Owing to interruptions caused by the insurrection, the collection of the tax was not completed until the end of February, by which time, notwithstanding the difficulties of collection and further large exemptions, which were granted in cases of chiefs and their people, whose territory had suffered from the disturbances, it is computed that about £12,000 in coin and produce were paid in, but from this amount must be deducted the value of produce looted by the insurgents, which is estimated at £2,000.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets on the 31st December exceeded the liabilities by £15,908 1*s.* 2*d.*

Public Debt.

The last instalment of the loan raised in 1871–73 for the wharf at Freetown was paid in June. The authorised Railway Loan for £300,000 has not yet been raised, but £192,200 of the amount has been advanced, up to the 31st December, by the Crown Agents for the construction of the Government Railway, and it is anticipated that the loan will be floated during the current year.

Municipality.

The Municipality of Freetown was established in 1895, with a council consisting of a mayor and 14 councillors, of whom 3 were appointed by Government, the remainder being elected.

The council have powers, under the Municipal Ordinance, to levy a rate on the rental value of houses, but had not acted on them up to the 31st December; they have, however, passed a resolution to levy a rate during the current year. Up to the present the municipal revenue has been derived from office fees, general trade licenses, market dues, cemetery fees, and a Government grant-in-aid of £1,800 per annum.

The total revenue and expenditure for the financial year ending 31st October 1897 and 1898 are as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1897...	3,533 19 1	4,135 8 2
1898...	3,560 17 3	5,405 0 5

The above figures show that the expenditure for the two years has exceeded the revenue for the same period by £2,445 12*s.* 3*d.*, but as the council had a balance in hand of £2,109 11*s.* 6*d.* on the 31st October to start with, their actual deficit on the 31st October 1898 was £336 0*s.* 9*d.*

At the close of the financial year there was a balance of cash-in-hand amounting to £51 4*s.* 6*d.*, but there were debts due by the municipality amounting to £387 5*s.* 3*d.* and further liabilities on account of the construction of the Krootown Market of £211 17*s.* 6*d.*

II.—Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

Imports and Exports.

The following table gives the values of imports and exports for the last five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894...	478,025	426,499
1895...	427,338	452,604
1896...	494,688	449,033
1897...	457,389	400,748
1898...	606,348	290,991

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

The value of imports is greatly in excess of previous years. As compared with 1897 larger quantities of military stores, coals, provisions, and specie were imported for the use of the troops and Her Majesty's ships engaged in suppressing the disturbances, but also there has been a large increase in wearing apparel, alcohol, and furniture ; on the other hand, there was a great falling off in the importation of beads, cotton goods, and tobacco, articles largely purchased by the natives of the Protectorate. Though the great excess in imports over previous years is mainly due to the importation of government and military stores, &c., on which no duty is paid, the fact that the Customs receipts exceeded those of any previous year since the formation of the Colony tends to show that there has been an increased consumption of dutiable articles by the public.

The following table shows the chief articles on which there has been a decrease or increase as compared with 1897 :—

———	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Aerated and Mineral Waters	4,085	—
Apparel	13,353	—
Beads	—	2,780
Books and Stationery	4,351	—
Building Materials	7,829	—
Cartridges and their Cases	14,693	—
Coals	20,194	—
Cotton Goods...	—	25,338
Furniture	7,270	—
Geneva	2,666	—
Machinery	4,953	—
Military Stores	13,526	—
Provisions	10,391	—
Rice	8,196	—
Rum	2,089	—
Specie	39,083	—
Tobacco	—	8,393
Whiskey and other spirits	1,229	—

The following table of imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries for the last ten years shows that on the whole an increasing trade is done with the United Kingdom and British Colonies as compared with Foreign Countries :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889	210,800	1,110	65,871	227,781
1890	248,401	1,628	65,475	315,504
1891	286,772	1,980	77,651	366,403
1892	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117
1893	325,829	5,543	86,094	417,466
1894	381,248	11,012	85,765	478,025
1895	336,414	5,755	85,169	427,338
1896	403,053	12,452	79,183	494,688
1897	377,508	6,097	73,784	457,389
1898	512,098	12,733	81,517	606,348

As bearing on the return of imports for the last ten years, given above, the following table, showing the Customs receipts for the last ten years, is interesting :—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Other Receipts.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889	9,317	39,717	7,445	59,479
1890	12,330	41,480	6,507	60,317
1891	17,770	52,228	4,429	74,427
1892	17,510	51,895	4,564	73,969
1893	17,838	54,333	4,211	76,382
1894	19,140	60,661	5,007	84,808
1895	17,106	65,474	4,939	87,519
1896	22,094	52,669	4,565	79,382
1897	24,386	58,489	4,218	87,093
1898	24,245	60,359	4,919	89,523

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

The rise under *ad valorem* duty after the year 1895 is due to an increase in the rate of tariff from 7½ to 10 per cent. brought into operation on the 1st August 1896.

The fall in the receipts from specific duties in 1896 followed by a rise in 1897 is consequent on the increase in the tariff on spirits to 3*s.* per liquid gallon in January 1896, which caused merchants to previously withdraw spirits from bond in large quantities at the old rate of duty; subsequent demands increased when their stocks became consumed. However, owing to spirits being largely watered down for consumption in the Colony in consequence of the increased tariff, there has not been the proportionate increase in the receipts that was anticipated. Previous to January 1896 the duty on spirits was 3*s.* on the *proof* gallon and *pro rata* more or less as the spirit imported was above or below proof.

It would appear from the above return, and the two preceding ones, that at least the import trade has not been so adversely affected by the disturbances in the Protectorate as was naturally anticipated, and there has been an actual increase in 1898 in Customs receipts over those in any preceding year; in fact, the Customs receipts have never previously been so high as in last year.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports for the last ten years, showing the countries to which exported:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656
1892	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451
1893	166,055	30,480	202,129	398,664
1894	196,171	24,873	205,455	426,499
1895	206,873	21,792	223,939	452,604
1896	203,495	21,895	223,643	449,033
1897	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748
1898	117,726	30,948	142,317	290,991

Exports are classified under two heads, viz., African Produce and European Manufactures. The values under these heads for 1898 were respectively £254,467 and £36,524, as against £316,665 and £84,083 for the previous year. As compared with the previous year there was a falling off of 19·6 per cent. in the value of African produce in 1898, and unless the market values have fluctuated considerably it may be assumed that the percentage represents also the proportionate decrease in the quantity of such produce. This falling off was no doubt due for the greater part to the disturbances, but some of it must be attributed to the increased restrictions imposed in French Guinea on exports from that Colony, the chief article of which is rubber.

Mines.

There are no existing mines. Plumbago has been worked in the Bagru district of the Protectorate, but not, it would appear, with remunerative results.

There is evidence of the existence of gold-bearing quartz in the Protectorate, but it is doubtful whether the gold is in payable quantities; however this can only be determined after the country has been further prospected.

Manufactures.

The only manufacture that has been started is that of ice and mineral waters by the West African Manufacturing and Development Company. The necessary plant has been laid down and it is hoped that the industry will be in full operation during the current year.

Fisheries.

Pearl oysters have been discovered along the coast line in the neighbourhood of Sherbro, but whether in sufficient quantities to make the establishment of a pearl fishery remunerative has not been ascertained.

Agricultural Industries.

Both Liberian and Sierra Leone coffee are grown; and there are several extensive plantations of the former, and in most gardens may be seen a few coffee trees, but the methods of preparing the berry for the market are crude and in the process it often gets bruised and otherwise injured. Very little coffee is exported but there is a market for home consumption. Its cultivation and preparation will have to be carried out on a more extensive scale and with more scientific appliances than at present

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

before it can command a price on the home market, and even then it is a question whether, owing to the expense of labour and production, it will be able to compete with coffee produced in the East Indies and elsewhere. At present its production can hardly be called an industry.

There is a large export trade in kola, which is an indigenous product, and the systematic planting and cultivation of kola trees gives promise of being remunerative; as also the cultivation of the rubber tree, which is also indigenous. At present the proper methods of collecting and preparing rubber for the market are unknown to the natives of the Protectorate, who in their ignorance cut down and destroy the trees and vines in the process of collection, and so crude are their methods of preparation that the value of the rubber is much depreciated.

Botanical Station.

At the Botanical Station, which is situated in Freetown, every effort is made by the curator to disseminate a knowledge of the culture of economic plants, a large number of which have been obtained from Kew and elsewhere and planted during the year. The station was only opened towards the end of the year 1895, but it has already produced good results in stimulating a desire in the Colony to cultivate economic plants, and an impulse has also been given to agriculture generally by holding agricultural shows, one of which took place in 1898.

It is in contemplation, as soon as the financial condition of the Colony admits, to establish a botanical station in the neighbourhood of Songo Town, with a view to more extensive cultivation of economic plants, and to connect with it a cattle and poultry farm. The native of the Protectorate has very little idea of right methods in rearing cattle.

Fruit Industry.

The curator is of opinion that fruit might be cultivated for export, such as pines, bananas, oranges, and limes, but the great drawback to such an industry is the want of regular and rapid steamship transport to Europe.

Land Grants.

In regard to land grants in the Colony the Governor is the authority empowered to grant waste land; all grants of land by the Crown are to contain reservations for roads and other public purposes. The tenure under which the occupation of Crown lands is sanctioned is, in the case of a Crown grant, fee simple

but occupation is also sanctioned under a squatter's license at a nominal rent, which tenure would be in the nature of a tenancy at will.

Under Ordinance No. 14 of 1886, real and personal property may be taken, acquired, held, and disposed of by any alien in the same manner in all respects as by natural born British subjects.

In the Peninsula and Isle de Los, town or village lots are to contain from three thousand to six thousand square feet with a frontage on the street of not less than fifty feet; country lands not less than twenty acres or more than two hundred.

In Sherbro, town or village lots are to contain three thousand seven hundred and fifty square feet, or have a frontage of fifty feet and a depth of seventy-five feet.

Value of Land.

In the Peninsula and Isle de Los, town or village lots are sold by public auction at an upset price of twenty shillings; suburban, at an upset price of ten shillings; and country lands at an upset price of four shillings and twopence per acre.

At Sherbro, town lots are sold in such manner as the Governor may direct; suburban lots at an upset price of ten shillings; and country lands at an upset price of eight shillings.

There are no conditions regulating the re-sale of lands granted by the Crown.

The question of land grants in the Protectorate is still unsettled.

Shipping.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1898 were :—

——	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	141	5,082
Steam do.	372	551,830
Total	513	556,912

The number and tonnage of vessels cleared were :—

—	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels	125	4,924
Steam do.	368	548,392
Total	493	553,316

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1898 was : steam vessels, 1,100,222 ; sailing vessels, 10,006 ; giving a total of 1,110,228.

Subjoined is a comparative table of tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the last ten years :—

Year.	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1889	20,286	568,885	589,171
1890	27,242	652,267	679,509
1891	28,535	813,988	842,523
1892	23,675	777,020	800,695
1893	26,481	720,031	746,512
1894	21,860	940,186	962, 46
1895	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745
1898	10,006	1,100,222	1,110,228

It will be observed that in the last ten years the aggregate tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared at the port has gradually increased to nearly double the tonnage in 1889. This is due to more lines of steamers having, from its increased importance, made Sierra Leone a port of call, and the two lines

of African Steamship Companies having increased their fleets as well as the size of their steamers. It is to be noted, on the other hand, that the tonnage of sailing vessels has diminished by more than one-half during the last decade.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 39 Ordinances passed during 1898, as against 17 in the previous year.

The principal measures passed are as follows :—

No. 2. An Ordinance for raising a further sum of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds for the construction and equipment of a railway from Songo Town to Rotifunk. This was necessary to enable the Government to continue the Sierra Leone Railway into the Protectorate, the first £150,000 authorized to be raised being only sufficient to carry the line as far as Songo Town, which is on the border of the Colony.

No. 13. An Ordinance to organize and establish a Volunteer Force in the Colony of Sierra Leone. This measure was considered necessary for the time being, in order to provide for the defence of the Colony owing to the insurrection in the Protectorate and the consequent necessity for sending most of the regular troops to the front. The force was disbanded by Proclamation dated the 15th September, after the suppression of the insurrection.

No. 14. An Ordinance to empower the Governor to apprehend and detain such persons as he shall suspect of conspiring against Her Majesty's Government. This was necessary owing to the insurrection which at the time existed in the Protectorate and some parts of the Colony.

No. 17. An Ordinance to regulate the law relating to the carrying and possession of arms and ammunition for the preservation of the public peace in the Protectorate. This was passed owing to the insurrection in the Protectorate.

No. 19. An Ordinance to authorize the inspection of stores and other places in which firearms, ammunition, and gunpowder may be kept under "The Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordnance, 1892." This was considered desirable, as there was no provision for inspection under existing law.

No. 21. An Ordinance to confer certain powers on the Commissioner appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into an insurrection of natives in the British Protectorate adjacent to the Colony of Sierra Leone, and generally into the state of affairs in the said Colony and Protectorate. This Ordinance was necessary to enable Sir D. P. Chalmers, the Commissioner so appointed, to carry on his inquiry.

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

No. 26. An Ordinance to further amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881." This was passed in order to provide for sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of criminal offences arising within the Protectorate of Sierra Leone at such places in the Colony or Protectorate and at such times as shall be duly appointed, and also for the trial of cases in the Protectorate by the Court and Assessors, and further it provides for the expression "Court" including a Deputy Judge thereof, and for the appointment of a Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Master.

No. 34. An Ordinance to incorporate the chapter of the cathedral church of St. George at Freetown in the Colony of Sierra Leone, to vest the said cathedral in the said chapter, and for other purposes in connection therewith. This was necessary owing to the revocation of Letters Patent dated May 22nd 1852, under which prior Bishops of Sierra Leone were appointed, and to enable the Government to hand over the cathedral to a cathedral chapter.

No. 38. An Ordinance to establish a force of natives of West Africa within the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, and to provide for its discipline. This regiment was organized this year under authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and in conjunction with the War Office.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

The number of schools inspected and "visited" was 69, as against 72 last year; of these 69 schools, 33 are Church of England, 19 Wesleyan, 8 United Methodist Free Churches, 3 Countess of Huntingdon, 2 Roman Catholic, and 4 others.

The number of children present at these inspections was 6,852, as against 7,312 in previous year, viz., 3,813 boys and 3,039 girls out of 8,679 on the registers.

The school income for the year from all sources is £5,258 10*s.* 5½*d.* This is £505 18*s.* 11¾*d.* over the preceding year.

The expenditure is £5,009 19*s.* 11½*d.*, an increase of £550 13*s.* 7*d.* over last year. This amount includes the cost of building (*i.e.*, Kissy Wesleyan School and Bathurst Street Infant School Extension).

Taking the amounts as they stand, they show that the various denominations raised an income about 17*s.* 3*d.* per head and spent 16*s.* 6*d.* per child.

The amounts received from the various sources are :—

—	1896 7.	1897–8.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Government Grants-in-aid	1,343 10 3½	1,498 12 9
School Fees	907 6 8	898 9 9
Class Collections	731 5 3¾	793 3 7½
Voluntary Subscriptions	171 6 5½	615 1 11¾
Society Grants	1,249 0 4½	1,034 1 1
Miscellaneous	68 19 7¾	33 12 9¾
Balance from previous year	260 14 3¾	394 8 5½
Total ... ... £	4,732 3 0	5,267 10 5½

The amount of grants-in-aid earned by the assisted schools for all the subjects for which grants are allowed was £1,439 0*s.* 10*d.*, as against £1,444 8*s.* 2*d.* in previous year, showing a decrease of £5 7*s.* 4*d.* as follows :—

—	Grants-in-aid, 1897.	Grants-in-aid, 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Church of England	584 19 8	600 14 0
Wesleyan	403 8 3	483 4 0
U. M. F. Churches	168 15 3	153 13 8
Countess of Huntingdon	54 0 6	12 15 0
Roman Catholic	98 17 6	89 6 4
Wilberforce Street	52 9 3	—
Other Schools	82 7 9	99 7 3
Total ... ... £	1,444 18 2	1,439 0 3

The above returns relate to primary education, which is of a very non-progressive character, both as regards the standard, which is very low, and the number of children under instruction.

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

A large proportion of the teachers are quite untrained and uncertificated; of those who held certificates by far the greater number only possess 3rd class certificates. Until the teachers are properly educated themselves, and also trained in the art of imparting instruction, no improvement can be looked for in the standard of education amongst the children under tuition.

An exhibition of school work has been held annually since 1894, but the improvement in exhibits has not come up to expectations.

Secondary Education.

There are several schools, such as the Church Missionary Society Grammar School, Wesleyan High School, Annie Walsh School for Girls, and others in which secondary education is imparted.

Higher Grade Education.

Higher grade education and theological training are given at the Furah Bay College, an institution which is carried on by the Church Missionary Society.

Technical Schools.

The Technical School in Freetown, which was opened in 1896, continues to do very good work. A night school was established in 1898, and a course of free lectures were given to apprentices, artisans, and mechanics, and were fairly well attended.

Instruction in carpentering and building is carried on at several of the American mission stations in the Protectorate, and it is hoped that with Government grants-in-aid other missions may take up similar work.

In conclusion, the schools for secondary education may be classed as fair; the young men who become graduates of Furah Bay College receive a high class education, and there are a certain number of young men who are educated in England at the universities and elsewhere for professions of the Church, Law, and Medicine, in which some afterwards show conspicuous ability. In the upper classes, therefore, a good education can be obtained, but it is amongst the masses that the standard of education is so low and so non-progressive in character. It is more than doubtful, notwithstanding the liberal Government grants-in-aid, whether the present generation are so well educated as the previous one, in which the children were taught by the European missionaries, without grants-in-aid, and not by teachers, as at present, who in the majority of instances have neither the requisite knowledge nor training to fit them for their work. Also as regards the number of children under instruction there

is no increase, for the school returns show that in proportion to the increase of the population there are not nearly so many children on the rolls as in former years. The greatest needs, at present, of the Colony and Protectorate for the mental training of the people and fostering in them habits of industry are sound elementary school teaching and technical and industrial training.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,617 as against 1,433 in the previous year, viz., 1,282 males and 335 females; the number of deaths was 203 as against 205 in the previous year, viz., 146 males and 57 females.

There were 14 deaths among the European population last year, 8 of these being from malarial fever.

The sanitary condition of the hospitals was fairly satisfactory, but the hospital in Freetown is old and dilapidated and far from being up to modern requirements. However, this may be said of most of the Government buildings in Sierra Leone.

Asylums.

The Lunatic Asylum, which is situated in Kissy, is very old and ill-adapted for its purpose. Extensive repairs are being effected in the building. There were 25 admissions during the year as against 13 in 1897, and 9 deaths as against the same number in 1897. This asylum has hitherto been the only institution of the kind in the British West Coast Colonies, and in consequence lunatics from those other Colonies are received and treated in it.

Poor Houses.

There are no Government poor houses or other charitable institutions, but the Colonial Government votes £400 annually towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners, one being a Government officer. The funds of the Princess Christian Hospital, which is a Church of England Diocesan institution, are assisted to a small extent by the Government. The hospital is admirably conducted, and supplies a much-felt need in the most crowded part of Freetown and gives gratuitous treatment to the poor classes; it has a ward for paying patients—both European and native—who are admitted at very moderate rates. Many Government and railway officials have been treated in this hospital. It also provides a training for young native women as nurses.

Savings Bank.

There is a Government Post Office Savings Bank, and on the 31st January 1898 there were 3,287 depositors, the balance due to them less interest being £41,187 7*s.* 4½*d.* This institution is much appreciated by the public, and the number of depositors is increasing.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Civil Police.

The civil police consist of an European Superintendent and Inspector, and 269 men of other rank who are natives. This force is employed in Freetown and the districts of the Colony.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the gaols of the Colony during 1898 was 900, as against 558 during the previous year. This large increase was due to the insurrection.

The number of prisoners sentenced during the year to penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 434, as against 353 in 1897; and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 225. The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1898 was 659, viz., 633 men, 21 women, and 5 juveniles; as against 479, *i.e.*, 441 men, 30 women, and 8 juveniles, in 1897.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 199; the number of admissions to the Gaol Hospital was 65, the daily average on the sick list was 15, and there were attendances on out-patients. There were 8 deaths during the year.

Industrial work, tailoring and shoemaking, has been introduced in Freetown Gaol, and the clothing of the civil and Frontier Police is now made up in it.

The building is in a very dilapidated condition and unsuited for a prison. A new one is to be constructed as soon as the funds of the Colony admit.

Criminal Statistics.

There were 1,486 persons charged before the Police Magistrates' Court during the year. Of this number, 508 were discharged for want of prosecution; 173 discharged on the merits of the case after a hearing; 767 summarily convicted, showing an increase of 129 as compared with the previous year; and 38 referred to the Sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 67 in 1897.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 267, showing 144 more than last year.

Larceny	197
Burglary	18
Drunkenness	38
Other Offences	247

In Sherbro the total number of apprehensions effected by the police was 201, as compared with 114 in 1897, or an increase of 76·31 per cent. over the previous year.

The total number of larceny cases was 60, on which 59 convictions followed, against 28 convictions in 1897, or an increase of 110·7 per cent.

There were 56 persons committed for trial, all of whom, with one exception, were in connection with the rebellion.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

Population.

There has been no census taken since 1891, when the population of the Colony was registered as follows :—

White	224
Coloured	74,611
Total ...	74,835

Owing to the immigration of natives from the Protectorate and natural increase, the population of the Colony may be estimated at about 100,000, and that of Freetown at about 40,000 ; but the population of Freetown fluctuates considerably, owing to the influx during the dry season of natives from the Protectorate, who come to seek employment as labourers.

The population of the Protectorate may be roughly estimated at about one million.

Public Health.

Owing to defective registration and the ignorance and prejudice of a large class of the population, particularly the aborigines, who crowd into the Colony, statistics regarding public health are very unreliable and no definite conclusion can be arrived at.

Sanitation.

There is no effective sanitary system. There is a Sanitary Department under the Municipality of Freetown ; it does its best, but with an insufficient staff and want of legal powers to compel

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

sanitary observances, it is quite unable to cope with the existing evils. There is no system for the removal of sewage or night soil, which accumulate in cesspits till the whole city is honeycombed with them and wells and springs polluted. The question of sanitation is under investigation by the Government, and a scheme is being considered for the removal of the sewage and the purification generally of the city.

Water Supply.

The water supplied to Freetown is thoroughly good, but the quantity is quite insufficient; there are, however, springs in the hills above the city from which a sufficient supply can be obtained, and during the year a study was made by an engineer, sent out from England for the purpose, and he has since submitted a scheme for increasing the supply.

Climate.

There are two seasons, the rainy and the dry. The total rainfall for the year 1898, as taken at the Military Hospital, Tower Hill, was 144·64 inches. Taking the last ten years the average annual rainfall is about 164 inches. As a rule rain commences in April, usually accompanied by tornadoes or violent thunderstorms (there are occasional tornadoes in March), but the rain begins to fall steadily in May, during which month the average is about 14 inches. After September the rain decreases, but the dry season cannot be said to commence until November, when the average rainfall is about 4 inches.

The atmosphere during the rainy season is excessively damp; everything is affected by it, including clothing, boots, &c., and fires of charcoal or wood are very often necessary to counteract its influence.

During the months from December to February the wind known as the Harmattan is prevalent. This wind comes from the Sahara and is very dry; it generally brings with it a fine dust. Natives and many Europeans, particularly those who have been in West Africa for some years, find it very trying, but Europeans generally consider it healthy.

Temperature.

During the year 1898 the maximum temperature in the shade was, in Freetown, 89, and the minimum 61·3. The average shade temperature throughout the year at 9 a.m. is 81. The shade temperature taken at Pangoma Station, in the Protectorate, was: maximum 87, minimum 55.

Direction and Force of Wind.

Westerly and south-westerly winds prevail generally throughout the year, but especially during the rainy season. In October, November, and December north-westerly winds are common, and in December, January, and February easterly and north-easterly winds prevail. During the dry season and when the Harmattan is not blowing, land and sea breezes alternate with considerable regularity ; the sea breeze sets in in the morning and lasts till near sunset, when the land breeze commences.

The wet season is the most unhealthy part of the year, particularly at its commencement and close, more especially at the former period.

Fever is very common, and dysentery and diarrhœa are prevalent in places where good water cannot be obtained.

VIII.—Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services.

The receipts of the Postal Department exceeded its expenditure by £740 16*s.* 4*d.* Arrangements were set on foot to extend the postal system into the Protectorate during the current year.

Preliminary arrangements were made to open a telegraph service in connection with the railway during the current year ; also to connect the public offices with a telephone.

IX.—Military Forces and Expenditure.

Regular Forces.

The Colony does not contribute to the up-keep of the regular forces in the command, which in 1898 cost the Imperial Government for local expenditure £16,434 17*s.*

In 1898 the garrison consisted of a detachment Royal Artillery, a native battery West African Artillery, 1st battalion West India Regiment, four companies 3rd battalion West India Regiment, a detachment Army Service Corps, and a detachment Army Ordnance Corps.

In addition to the above troops, a native battalion, called the 1st battalion West African Regiment, was raised and recruited from the tribes of the Protectorate, chiefly Mendis and Timinis, the officers being appointed from regiments in England and seconded for the service.

Volunteers.

A volunteer corps, strength 100 privates, was enrolled to assist in the defence of Freetown and the Colony during the insurrection in the Protectorate should their services be required. This force was disbanded by Proclamation on the 16th September, consequent on the suppression of the insurrection.

Frontier Police.

The Frontier Police consisted of 12 European officers—augmented to 17 during the year by the appointment of 5 additional assistant inspectors—and 611 native sub-officers and privates. It is organized into 5 companies of 110 privates each, and one company is posted in each of the five districts of the Protectorate. The cost of the force amounted to £20,634.

X.—General Observations.

Insurrection in the Protectorate.

The year 1898 was unfortunately remarkable on account of an insurrection in the Protectorate.

The causes of the insurrection have been made the subject of an enquiry and report by Sir David Chalmers, who was sent out to Freetown as Royal Commissioner for that purpose.

The insurrection commenced in February in the Karene District through the refusal of a chief, called Bai Bureh, to pay the house tax when required to do so by the District Commissioner. As the Frontier Police in the district were in too weak force to compel the obedience of this chief, whose followers had been reinforced by large numbers of "war boys" from the surrounding countries, troops were despatched to the scene of the disturbance. Owing to the difficult and wooded nature of the country and the obstinate resistance of the insurgents, the operations became protracted into the rainy season, and it was not until the 21st November that Bai Bureh was captured by a detachment of the West African Regiment, which had lately been raised.

Whilst the operations against Bai Bureh were taking place, disturbances broke out in the Kwaia and Bumpe Districts, which were, however, speedily and effectually suppressed during the month of March by the Frontier Police.

On the 28th of April, however, a general and simultaneous rising took place throughout the Mendi Districts, which was commenced by an attack by the insurgents on a small detachment of Frontier Police at Kambia. From that time, and for several weeks, all communication with the head-quarters of the Ronietta,

Pangoma, and Bandajuma Districts, which were each held by a company of Frontier Police, were cut off, but columns consisting of portions of the 3rd battalion West India Regiment, a detachment of which had recently arrived from St. Helena, some hastily raised levies for the West African Regiment, and some Artillery, were rapidly organized and despatched to the front under command of Colonel E. Woodgate, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops, and Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Cuningham, D.S.O.

In these operations the beleaguered head-quarters, Kwalu, Bandajuma, and Pangoma, were successively relieved, the latter by a force of Frontier Police from Kwalu, under Captain E. D. F. Fairtlough, D.S.O., and the rising in the Mendi Districts completely suppressed by the commencement of July. These operations, thus brought to a successful conclusion, were carried out during the height of the rainy season, and in a very trying and unhealthy climate, against a numerous enemy expert in bush warfare.

Her Majesty's ships, "Fox," "Phœbe," "Blonde," "Tartar," and "Alecto," co-operated with the land forces during the insurrection, and rendered most valuable assistance by sending boat expeditions up the rivers and creeks along the coast line and covering the advance of Lieut.-Colonel Cuningham's column up the Jong River.

After the suppression of the insurrection in the Mendi Districts active operations practically ceased, except in the Karri country, where Bai Bureh was a fugitive with a few followers. The law was reasserted by the trial of the insurgent chiefs and headmen by Mr. G. A. Bonner, who was sent out from England and appointed a Deputy Judge for the purpose, at sessions of the Supreme Court held successively at Kwalu, Bonthe, and Bandajuma.

As it was necessary to re-establish British authority and prestige in the remoter parts of the Protectorate, where the face of the white man was hardly known and the only evidence of British power had been the passing of an occasional small detachment of Frontier Police, it was decided to send small expeditionary columns, each consisting of a company of the West African Regiment and a small detachment of Artillery, throughout the length and breadth of the Protectorate.

These columns started from Port Lokko, Freetown, and Bonthe respectively, the advance commencing in December. The marches were timed for the various columns to concentrate simultaneously along the Anglo-Liberian frontier east of Pangoma, across which the Kissis—a formidable tribe in Liberian territory, and amongst whom certain insurgent chiefs had taken refuge—were reported to be threatening to invade the Protectorate. This report was subsequently confirmed by

SIERRA LEONE, 1898.

the Kissis actually raiding across our frontier, but as they did so they were caught on three sides by the converging columns, and, after some resistance, driven back and followed up into their own country, and their capital and other towns burnt. These operations, in the absence of Colonel E. Woodgate, who unfortunately had to be invalided home, were most successfully carried out under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Cuningham.

The columns all returned to Freetown by the end of February of the current year, and all military operations have since ceased.

Our losses during the suppression of the disturbances and the subsequent military expeditions were as follows :—

——	European Officers.	N.C.O. and Men.	Carriers.
Killed	4	65	92
Wounded	23	184	58

Railway.

The Colony now possesses a railway, which is called "The Sierra Leone Government Railway." Its construction was commenced in January 1896. The line has not yet been formally opened for regular traffic, but there is passenger traffic between Freetown and Waterloo and material trains for construction purposes run as far as Songo Town. A passenger train to Waterloo is despatched every Saturday from the chief station in Water Street, Freetown, and it has been considerably used by the public. The railway was much used during the disturbances in the Protectorate in transporting troops and stores to the front.

An extension of the line to Rotifunk, a distance of 25 miles from Songo Town, is being carried out and a preliminary survey from that place, through Moyamba, towards Mano has been commenced. The disturbances in the Protectorate naturally hindered the construction of the line to a considerable extent while they lasted.

During the year 1898, £30,548 12*s.* 8*d.* was expended in salaries to railway officials and labourers as under :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries, &c. of Europeans	13,924	1	1
Wages to labourers (natives)	16,624	11	7
Total ...	£30,548	12	8

Roads.

Except in Freetown there are no metalled roads either in the Colony or Protectorate, and consequently the question of transport is a great difficulty. Up to the present all produce and merchandise have had to be transported on men's heads at an enormous proportionate expense. Given hard roads suitable for vehicles it is still very doubtful whether draft animals, either oxen or mules, could live and work in the climate of Sierra Leone, and besides the first cost and maintenance of such roads would entail an expenditure perhaps little short of that of the construction and maintenance of light railways. It would appear that for Sierra Leone the light railway is the cheapest and most economical means of transport, but in the future, when motor cars become perfected, there seems no reason why they should not be used for traction purposes where the railway does not run, but of course they would necessitate metalled roads.

Immigration.

There is a great influx into the Colony from the Protectorate annually of natives seeking labour after their crops have been harvested, and until it is time for them to return home to prepare their farms for the ensuing crop. This period extends from about the end of October till March. A portion of these natives remain and take up their abode in the Colony.

Emigration.

A considerable number of natives still emigrate annually down the coast seeking labour at the Congo and elsewhere; but the majority of these usually return after an absence of from two to three years.

Prospects of Trade.

As has been already stated, there was a considerable falling off in exports in 1898 owing to the insurrection, but on the other hand there was an appreciable increase in imports, other than naval, military and Government stores, coals, and specie, as compared with any previous year, and, order having been restored in the Protectorate, it is to be hoped that the great disproportion between exports and imports which existed in 1898 will be adjusted in the near future by an increase in the former.

Notwithstanding the restrictive tariffs placed on the export of African produce into the Protectorate in the adjacent French Colony of French Guinea, which completely cut off our trade with the upper Niger territories, the future prospects of trade may be considered good, owing to the developments which are taking place in the Protectorate itself.

Climate.

The unsuitability of the climate for Europeans is notorious, but there is abundant medical testimony to show that people with temperate habits, both in eating and drinking, may enjoy fairly good health. It is the general opinion that the more inland districts of the Protectorate, viz., Koinadugu and Pangoma, are more healthy than those nearer the coast.

Rates of Wages.

The rates of wages for native labour in Freetown varies from 15*s.* to 30*s.* a month. The wages of labourers on the railway works have recently risen from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day; this rise was consequent on the great demand for carriers for the military expeditions, who were paid at the rate of 1*s.* 3*d.* a day inclusive of rations.

Cost of Living.

The cost of living for Europeans has much increased of late years in consequence of the rise in servants' wages, rent, and articles such as meat, poultry, eggs, &c.

Openings for Investment of Capital.

Various concessions for the cultivation and collection of rubber and other vegetable produce, and mining for gold and other minerals, have been obtained from native chiefs in the Protectorate by speculators, and may be regarded as openings for the investment of capital, but, with one exception, circumstances have not as yet admitted of the areas conceded being exploited or worked.

General Condition of the Colony.

Considering the serious insurrection which took place during the year in the Protectorate and parts of the Colony and the concomitant loss of life and property and destruction of trade, the Colony and Protectorate have recovered in an unlooked-for manner from the shock, and though a return to the normal condition of affairs, as well as a complete rehabilitation of trade, may not be immediately looked for, still, in view of the manner in which the natives are settling down in the Protectorate and cultivating their farms and the rapidly increasing Customs receipts, there is reason to hope that the general condition of the Colony and Protectorate is steadily improving.

Sierra Leone,
18th April 1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 251.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

November 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898

[C.—9046-19.] *Price* 1*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
221	Labuan	1896
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 251.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji,
28th September, 1898

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a Report which I have recently received from Mr. Woodford, the Resident Commissioner, on the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the period January, 1897, to March, 1898, inclusive.

Mr. Woodford at the end of his Report refers to the desirability of increasing his police force, and of his being provided with a small steamer to facilitate his visiting the distant parts of the group; but, as you are doubtless aware, the revenue of the Protectorate is at present barely sufficient to balance the existing expenditure.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

967*—75—11/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

British Solomon Islands, 1897–8.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

General Report.

White and other Foreign Residents.

1. The number of white and other foreign residents in the Protectorate remains approximately the same for the period under review as it was at the time of my previous Report, the vacancies caused by death or removal having been filled up by fresh arrivals.

Mortality.

2. The number of deaths during the period has been large, viz., nine deaths among a population of under 50, but such a high rate of mortality is not to be considered as by any means a normal one, a large proportion of the deaths having been accidental. One death only occurred from what residents in the Solomons have been in the habit of considering "natural cause" viz., murder by the natives.

The causes of death may be summarized as follows:—

Murder by natives	1
Drowning	1
Suicide	1
Dynamite accidents	2
Natural causes	3
Information incomplete	1
Total ...	9

3. To persons acclimatized the Solomon Islands are probably as healthy as most other tropical climates. New arrivals are almost certain sooner or later to suffer from malarial fever, but in a comparatively mild form, and not of so severe a type as the fever met with in New Guinea.

Even the natives themselves are subject to this fever, and during the operation of clearing the bush on Tulagi, for the Government station, the native police, and others employed, suffered frequently ; but such attacks were to be expected during the process of opening up virgin forest land, and have become less and less frequent as the sun has penetrated to the cleared ground round the houses. At the present time the health of all at Tulagi is excellent.

TRADE.

4. In spite of the low price of copra, and the fact that vegetable ivory nuts were, in the month of March, 1898, absolutely not worth the price of freight to Sydney, the volume of exports from the Protectorate has been well maintained, and compares favourably with the previous returns. The following table of amounts may be considered as approximately accurate.

Statement of Exports, 1895, 1896, *and* 1897, *to* 31*st March* 1898.

Year.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Bêche de Mer.	Rattans.	Coco-nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Plants.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons. cwts.	lbs.	Tons. cwts.	Bundles.	Bags.	Bags.	Cases.
1895	1,200	586	6 10	891	7 18	—	—	—	—
1896	1,383	600	8 9½	1,379	3 15	—	—	—	—
1st January, 1897, to 31st March, 1898.	1,688	580	8 3¼	3,149*	5 10	290	129	7	23

* I have omitted altogether an amount of turtle shell, stated to be two tons, exported in February, 1897, by the schooner "Lark," as I think the quantity is subject to correction, but the amount of turtle shell exported during the 15 months under notice has been large and, with the above exception, the figures are not open to doubt.

6. Of the new items of export included in the statement for 1897, the rattans are used in New South Wales for making coal baskets, but return little more than the cost of freight, and are, consequently, hardly likely in the future to prove a valuable article of export, while the plants consisted for the most part of an orchid (*dendrobium speciosum*). The systematic denudation of a district of such slow-growing plants as its orchid flora, can hardly be considered a subject for congratulation, except from the point of view of the export returns.

Rubber.

7. I had hoped to have been able to include rubber in the list of exports for 1897, but although endeavours have been made by traders, notably by Mr. Svensen of Marau, to discover a native tree yielding commercial rubber, the attempts hitherto have been without success. Samples handed to me by Mr. Svensen were forwarded to London in December, 1897, for report. I regret to say that they prove only to belong to the quality known commercially as "Potatoe gutta," and are of little value. So far, no rubber of commercial value has been discovered, but Mr. Svensen has instructed the natives of various places in the method of collection.

IMPORTS.

8. The denomination of articles of import, of which no complete return is at present obtainable, presents little variation from those enumerated in my previous Report. A desire is, however, growing among the natives for the possession of boats, and two or three arrive from Sydney by every steamer, built to the order of various traders, for sale to the natives.

AGRICULTURE.

9. Planting operations have been somewhat extended during the past fifteen months. The existing coconut plantations owned by white residents remain as previously reported. Mr. Wheatley of Rubiana has commenced a new plantation, but at present I have had no opportunity of inspecting it.

The coffee plantation of the Marau Company at Kaukau, on the north coast of Guadalcanar, suffered a great misfortune in September 1897, by the murder of the manager by natives of the neighbouring bush district; and the plantation was consequently unavoidably neglected for some months; but from recent

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1897–8.

reports, it appears that the coffee is in a most thriving condition, and is already showing signs of bearing fruit. I have cause to suppose that further experiments in coffee planting will shortly be commenced, as the climate appears suitable for the growth of this product; and applications for the acquisition of land for the purpose of coffee planting have been received.

Coffee seedlings planted at the Government Station in August, 1897, shewed signs of flowering at the end of March, 1898. Some seedlings given by me to the natives of Savo are stated by them to have made more growth than those at Tulagi, but I have not seen them myself. Savo I should think most eminently suited for coffee.

MINERALS.

10. An elaborately equipped expedition, including a mining expert and an assayer, visited the Protectorate during the past year from San Francisco, with the object of prospecting for minerals. The hopes of the expedition were based upon some fabulous accounts of the existence of gold and copper reported to have been seen on San Christoval, by a man of notorious character, who induced the members of the expedition to embark their capital in the undertaking. A shaft was sunk at Maru Bay on San Christoval, and samples obtained from various parts of that Island, but the result of the assays shewed only the presence of silver ranging from 0·15 oz. to 0·3 oz. per ton with a minute trace of gold in all. One other, the richest found, gave 0·44 oz. of silver per ton, and 0·03 of gold; the value of this sample was stated to be about 4*s*. per ton. The "solid cliff of pure copper," reported to exist upon Rennell Island, was searched for in vain, although the informant asserted positively that he had seen it, and knew where it was. Eventually he attempted to account for his inability to find it by saying that it must have disappeared in an earthquake. A sample of green mineral, apparently malachite, from another locality in the Protectorate was submitted by me to the assayer, and found to contain 46·94 per cent. of pure copper.

It is to be regretted that an expedition so well equipped for prospecting should have been so much discouraged by their ill success as to abandon the enterprise before making further efforts in other parts of the Protectorate, as I imagine it will be long before persons in such a position to thoroughly test the value of any minerals discovered will again visit the Protectorate.

It would be desirable that the locality whence the sample containing copper was obtained should be further explored.

METEOROLOGICAL.

11. The course of the weather in the Solomons follows certain rules, which residents are able to formulate with considerable certainty.

From about the beginning of April to the end of October, the south-east trade wind blows with regularity, especially in the southern portion of the group, (with the northern portion, under German influence, extending to within 5° of the line, I am not now concerned, but the south-east season in that portion of the group is not nearly so well defined as in the latitudes between 8° and 11° south which may be said to include practically the whole of the Islands under the British Protectorate).

During the months from November to March, calms and variable winds are the rule, with an occasional spell of severe weather from the north-west, generally accompanied by torrents of rain. I am, however, informed by old residents that one season is by no means like another, and that a year may even sometimes pass without a strong north-westerly blow.

The south-east end of the Protectorate in latitude 11° S. may be considered approximately the limit of the extent of the north-west monsoon. South of that limit, during the months from November to March, circular storms, caused, I imagine, by the contest for supremacy between the monsoon and the trade-wind, carrying devastation in their track, are to be expected. From these hurricanes the Solomon group is fortunately free; and, consequently, plantations are exempt from the risk of damage by hurricane, a risk that must be reckoned with in the case of Fiji, and other groups further to the southward.

The barometer is of little use in prognosticating the weather. During the south-east season the glass is high and, generally speaking, the stronger the trade the higher the glass. For north-west weather the glass falls, and remains low during its continuance.

The range of the thermometer is small, and the temperature is rarely oppressive. A temperature of 90° in the shade is considered high, and I have never registered a higher one than 92° at, or near, sea level. During the early mornings, under the same condition, the thermometer falls generally to about 77°, and upon dull days stands regularly at about 80° to 82°. The lowest night temperature I ever registered at sea level was 74°. This was on the north coast of Guadalcanar where the nights are particularly cool and pleasant, the heat of the day being tempered by the land breeze, having its origin in the high mountain masses of that island, which sets in regularly about 8 o'clock, and blows until 8 or 9 in the morning. The rainfall, I have reason to believe, varies considerably in different

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1897–8.

localities. Marau Sound at the south-east end of Guadalcanar is, during the south-east season, probably one of the wettest coast places in the Protectorate. The clouds carried by the trade-wind appear to be arrested in their course by the high mountains of the island, and precipitate themselves in rain. In fact at Marau it appears to me during the south-east season to be generally raining, although I am assured by residents that droughts of a fortnight or three weeks sometimes occur.

The Government Station at Tulagi may, on the other hand, be said to escape somewhat of its due share of rainfall. During the south-east season clouds and rain squalls are frequently observed following the high land of Gela, while Tulagi escapes altogether.

A rain gauge has been kept at Tulagi since the beginning of October, 1897, and the results are herewith tabulated. I have prefixed certain observations on the rainfall, obtained by Dr. Guppy, of H.M.S. "Lark," 15 years ago. These may assist in enabling one to arrive at an approximate idea, but more extended observations are necessary before a correct estimate of the rainfall at any one station can be arrived at.

February and March at Tulagi were very wet months, rain falling nearly every day. The greatest quantity of rain registered in one day was 4·93 inches on 1st March, and this all fell in about two hours and a half. The rainfall for January 17th may have exceeded the amount above mentioned, but, in consequence of my temporary absence from home, it was not properly recorded, and on my return the gauge was found to be overflowing.

The rainfall at Tulagi for February, 1898, shews an average of over an inch per day, and that for March nearly as much.

Observations of rainfall in British Solomon Islands, in inches :—

1882 at Santa Anna :—

November	7·60
December	13·96
Total ...	21·56

1882 at Ugi :—

October	10·68
November	10·16
December	9·57
Total ...	30·41

1883 at Santa Anna :—

January	5·23
February	9·63
March	4·40
April	14·96
May	11·28
June	26·88
July	18·61
August	11·74
September	4·81
October	5·68
November	6·57
December	5·24
Total ...	125·03

1883 at Ugi :—

January	13·46
February	13·89
March	10·02
April	23·28
May	6·39
June	12·83
July	24·60
August	15·76
September	7·36
October	5·15
November	5·30
December	8·20
Total ...	146·24

Rainfall at Tulagi :—

			Rainfall on		Greatest in one day.
1897.	October	2·91 in.	8 days ...		1·17 in.
„	November	5·66 „	17 „ ...		1·17 „
„	December	11·03 „	18 „ ...		1·98 „
1898.	January	9·51 „	18 „ ...		4·10 „
„	February	28·55 „	21 „ ...		3·72 „
„	March	27·89 „	22 „ ...		4·93 „

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1897–8.

GOVERNMENT STATION AT TULAGI.

12. The purchase of the island of Tulagi in about 1896, as a site for a Government Station, having been approved of by His Excellency the late High Commissioner, and a sum of money voted by the Imperial Government for its equipment, operations were commenced in May, 1897. The island being densely clothed with heavy virgin forest, I first employed some of the local natives to cut a wide track across the island from one side to the other, in order to get a better idea of the nature of the ground. The next operation was to select sites for the residence and policemen's quarters, to have the timber upon them cut down, and to clear away the mangrove from the landing place. During the months of May and June I resided at Gavutu, (about three miles distant), going backwards and forwards daily by boat, but as this entailed considerable loss of time, I erected a hut near the landing place, which I occupied during the latter part of June in company with five native prisoners, and three other natives, returning to Gavutu every Saturday.

At the end of June, H.M.S. "Torch" arrived from Fiji with eight native police for my use, and I at once began burning off the fallen timber, levelling the ground on the site of the residence, and making a road to it from the landing place. As there was not sufficient accommodation at Tulagi for the police, we again took up our residence at Gavutu, pending the erection of a temporary house.

On the 5th August the S.S. "Titus" arrived from Sydney bringing the timber and other materials for the erection of the residence and gaol, and a carpenter to do the work. After building some temporary huts, I moved all the police permanently to Tulagi on August 16th.

The site being already prepared, and levelled, and the posts on which the house was to be built being ready before the arrival of the timber from Sydney, the building was at once begun. Work was delayed from time to time in consequence of the fever from which all suffered in a greater or less degree, but this was to be only expected in a place freshly cleared; but by the end of November, when the carpenter left, the residence and gaol were practically completed, a permanent water supply for washing and bathing constructed, and a road from the landing place to the residence. During December and January the road was further improved, but some rectification of the levels is still necessary, more bush was cleared, and planted with bananas and sweet potatoes, and at the end of January I began the permanent police quarters. These are built partly of blue and red gum, with an oregon floor, and partly of native materials. They were completed during March.

A boat house to supersede the temporary one is now under construction, and when that is finished a landing wharf for boats will be undertaken. No additional expense, except that of the labour, will be incurred for these, as the materials are either already in stock or to be cut upon the spot.

A mooring buoy for the boat has been laid down in 13 fathoms of water, and another buoy placed to mark a coral patch in a position dangerous to vessels entering from the southward.

The work as above described has been executed for a sum considerably below the estimate.

Upon the completion of the work now in hand, and in preparation, more land will be cleared and planted with coconuts, a considerable area of excellent coconut land being available.

VISITS OF WARSHIPS, AND EXTENSION OF THE PROTECTORATE.

13. The Protectorate was visited during the season of 1897 by three of Her Majesty's ships, viz : the "Wallaroo," the "Rapid," and the "Torch."

Reports of the proceedings of these vessels have already been furnished.

Acting upon his instructions, Captain Pollard, of H.M.S. "Wallaroo," proclaimed a Protectorate in the name of Her Majesty over the islands of Rennell, Bellona, and Sikiana, or Stewart Island, and they were included in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WHITE RESIDENTS.

14. During the period under review the Protectorate was comparatively free from such attacks as have, in past years, made the Solomon group somewhat notorious.

In September, 1897, Jean Pouret, the manager of the Marau Co.'s coffee plantation on Guadalcanar, was murdered by natives of the neighbouring bush. I visited the place within a week of the occurrence with six native police and ten traders. Three of the guilty parties were shot, and two captured and sent to Fiji for trial. They received sentences of 10 years' imprisonment. The speedy retribution which overtook the guilty parties in this case has had an excellent effect upon the natives of the north coast of Guadalcanar.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1897–8.

In November the trader Jean Prat, and one of his crew, were severely wounded by natives of Bellowa, on Vella Lavella. The attack was a particularly treacherous and premeditated one, but with the small force at my disposal I was unable to deal with the matter. It remains to be dealt with by one of Her Majesty's ships.

The boats of a labour ship were fired upon by a village on the coast of Malaita, and the fire was returned. No damage was suffered, and no action taken.

MISSIONS.

15. The Melanesian (Church of England) Mission steamer "Southern Cross" made her usual three visits to the Protectorate during the year 1897, and some changes were made in the white staff at the various stations. A most superior church was completed at Ulawa, built by the natives themselves under the direction of their native teacher.

The Reverend Dr. Welchman has been permanently resident at Siota, on Gela, during the year. His professional services have been tendered freely to all in need of them, and he has earned the gratitude of the white residents for his unremitting attention to those in need of assistance. A hospital is to be shortly erected at Siota with the aid of a grant of £300 made to the Mission by a charitable society in England.

Many natives have recently returned from Queensland and Fiji, especially to Malaita, who have received Christian teaching during their absence, and are anxious for the means of continuing it on their return. I believe that a rapid extension of the Mission's work upon Malaita may be looked for in the near future.

The Marist Fathers (Roman Catholic) are about to commence operations in the Protectorate, and will probably select a site at or near, to the coast of Guadalcanar, for their first station.

CODE OF LAWS FOR THE ISLAND OF GELA.

16. During January I invited the chiefs and people of Gela to a meeting at Tulagi for the consideration of a code of laws for the better government of the island. About a thousand natives attended. The proposed code was founded upon that established in the Gilbert and Ellice Island Protectorate, and is now provisionally in operation.

District and village chiefs were appointed who were to send offenders to Tulagi for punishment. The chiefs have, on the whole, evinced an intelligent disposition to enforce the laws, and several offenders have been sent to Tulagi for punishment.

17. I have considered it inadvisable to improve the same laws at present upon the island of Savo; but the chiefs of that island have voluntarily agreed to refer all cases to Tulagi, and to accept the Resident's advice and ruling in cases of dispute. One prisoner guilty of a minor offence has been already sent to Tulagi from Savo for punishment.

18. From Guadalcanar the natives have sent for advice, (in one instance to ask for permission to make war upon a bush tribe). The natives of the village of Tasimboko, occupying some of the best land on the island, who were expelled from their houses and lands some years ago, have, through influence brought to bear from Tulagi, been permitted to return.

19. Several canoes have visited Tulagi from Malaita, one of them having come, with a friendly message from a powerful chief on that island, a distance of over 100 miles.

20. The most pressing need at present is for an increased police force, and the means of visiting the distant parts of the Protectorate. A small steamer, in preference to a sailing vessel, is much needed, but the funds to acquire, and support, such a vessel cannot at present be provided from local sources.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1–3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 275

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1898-9.

(For Report for 1897-8, *see* No. 251.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C. 9498-9.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
249	Gold Coast	1897
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	„
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	„
254	Ceylon	„
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	„
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	„
264	Gambia	„
265	St. Helena	„
266	Leeward Islands	„
267	St. Lucia...	„
268	Fiji	„
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
270	Malta	„
271	Gold Coast	„
272	Trinidad...	„
273	Sierra Leone	„
274	Ceylon	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 275.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897–8, *see* No. 251.)

HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji.
30th June 1899.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a Report by Mr. C. M. Woodford, the Resident Commissioner, on the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the year 1898–99.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

3712*—75—9/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

British Solomon Islands, 1898–9.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE

GENERAL REPORT.

From 1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899.

---

1. The British Solomon Islands Protectorate, which up to June 1897 comprised only the southern islands of the Solomon group, was in that month extended by the proclamation of the Protectorate over the islands of Sikiana, Rennel, and Bellona, and in the following year, 1898, the Santa Cruz group, the Reef Islands, the Duff group, Vanicoro, Tucopia, Cherry Island, and Mitre Island were added. The Protectorate now extends in a W.N.W. and E.S.E. direction from Treasury Island to Mitre Island for a distance of 900 miles.

The most recent additions to the Protectorate are at present of small importance from the point of view of trade, there being only one white resident trader, who lives at the island of Santa Cruz; while a missionary of the Melanesian Mission spends two or three months during the year also at Santa Cruz.

With such a long stretching district to attend to, and the resources at my disposal, it has been impossible for me to visit places at a distance, and, consequently, up to the present time some of the more distant islands, and especially the newly acquired portions of the Protectorate, have not received such attention as I should have wished. I have, however, visited Santa Cruz twice in a trading steamer.

Better facilities for locomotion are urgently needed, and I hope that means may be provided from Imperial Funds, or otherwise, to supply them, as well as an increased staff of native police.

2. White and other Foreign Residents.

The number of these has slightly increased during the period under review, and may now be taken to be between 50 and 60.

The advent of the Marist Fathers Roman Catholic Mission, and the inception of a new industry, viz., systematic fishing for pearl shell, may be considered to account for this increase. The number and persons of the white residents already here at the commencement of the year under review remaining much as before.

3. MORTALITY.

I have satisfaction in being able to report a greatly decreased mortality among white residents since the date of my last report.

In place of the nine deaths then reported, I have now only to report two, one being that of the trader Mr. Pascal Jean Prat who died on the 1st October 1898, undoubtedly from the effects of a wound in the head inflicted by a native of Vella Lavella some eleven months previously, and that of Captain Keating, master of the "Chittoor," trading vessel of Sydney, who accidentally shot himself on board that vessel off Tulagi in February 1899. The last case, however, should not, strictly speaking, be considered as that of a resident.

The murder of two white men by natives of the island of Utupua has been already officially reported, but as the event occurred before the declaration of the Protectorate over that island, I do not include them in my list. The circumstances were enquired into at the time by Commander Freeman of H.M.S. "Mohawk."

It is satisfactory that no information of accidents from the use of dynamite to either white men or natives has reached me during the year.

Malarial fever of a mild type has, as usual, been rife among the white residents, especially during the hotter months of the year, from November to March, but this is always so, and must be reckoned with by those having to reside in this climate.

Among the natives, the most fatal disease appears to have been dysentery, and reports of numerous deaths from this cause have reached me from widely separated parts of the Protectorate.

I regret to say that an epidemic of dysentery caused eleven deaths of natives, mostly young boys, at the Melanesian Mission Station at Siota, early last year; and another outbreak, at a later period, carried off five or six more.

The fact that natives are extremely careless about the quality of the water they use is probably the cause to which these deaths may primarily be assigned; but the ignorance of remedial measures, and the almost hopeless disinclination of a native to submit to proper medical treatment and discipline, is a large contributing factor.

A stock of drugs is kept at the Government Station, and is freely dispensed to all applicants.

The loathsome skin disease (tinea circinata tropica) is particularly prevalent among the native population, but appears to be easily cured by the application of chrysophanic acid or Goa powder, and I have numerous requests for this remedy. All prisoners or men offering themselves for work at the Government Station showing the slightest traces of this disease are at once subjected to a course of the above mentioned treatment,

and it is generally successful, except in the most inveterate cases, after about three applications on alternate days, the complete cure in ordinary cases occupying about a week. So well are the natives aware of the value of this remedy, that the traders all keep it for sale.

The prevalence of this disease varies in different localities. Upon the island of Gela, or Florida, it is particularly prevalent, but upon the neighbouring island of Savo it is comparatively rare.

The disease is doubtless engendered by careless and dirty habits, neglect of cleanliness in the houses, and neglect of bathing. The natives appear to treat the disease with the utmost indifference, but I endeavour, as much as possible, to direct their attention to its causes, and the facility with which a cure may be effected.

4. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following tabulated statement of Revenue and Expenditure since the establishment of the Resident Commissionership, cannot be considered an unfavourable one :—

In the year 1897 a grant of £1,200 was made from Imperial funds for the purpose of establishing a Government Station, and was so expended during the year expiring 31st March 1898.

During the past year expenses have been kept down to the lowest possible limit, but no necessary work of a permanent character has been neglected.

The amount of cash balance standing to the credit of the Protectorate on 31st March 1899 is a sum of £460 10*s.* 11*d.*, with liabilities nil.

Statement.

Period.	Revenue.			Expenditure		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898 ...	957	3	11	1,933	2	0
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899 ...	1,257	7	10	1,030	1	8

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash in Bank of New Zealand, Sydney, 31st March 1899.	504	2	0
Cash in safe	88	3	3
	£592	5	3
Less amount belonging to estates of persons deceased.	131	14	4
Surplus on 31st March 1899	£460	10	11

5. TRADE—EXPORTS.

The amount of trade for the year remains about the same as for the previous one, with a slight tendency towards improvement.

Ivory nuts have continued practically unsaleable, but a small shipment has recently been made which realized something over the cost of freight to Sydney; and it is probable that an improvement in price may shortly occur, in which case shipments would be immediately made. Some of the traders are continuing to buy these nuts from the natives, when brought for sale, in the expectation of an improvement in the price.

Copra, the chief item of export, has recently reached a more satisfactory price, and traders are likely to make every possible effort to increase their out-put.

The copra produced by the natives is all smoke dried, but some of the traders, especially those owning plantations of their own, have lately commenced to ship sun-dried copra in bags, and have realized a greatly enhanced price for the product.

The export of pearl shell remains at about the same as for the two previous years, but in future it is probable that this item will figure much more prominently in the export returns. A properly equipped party of experienced divers has lately commenced diving for the large gold-lipped shell. No shipments have yet been made, but the results obtained have been, I am informed, up to the present very encouraging. Should they continue so a valuable industry may be expected to develop, but at present the waters of the Protectorate have not been properly explored for this product. The shell is said to have been found at great depths, descents having been made in over 20 fathoms. The natives prize this variety of shell very highly, but are not able to obtain it for themselves, as they are indifferent divers. In fact, the traders have been in the habit of importing gold-lipped shell for sale to the natives, who use it in making personal ornaments.

The pearl shell figuring in the expoıt returns is of a small and inferior quality, the best being worth, perhaps, sixty pounds per ton. It is all obtained by the natives themselves in comparatively shallow water.

The export of turtle shell remains about the same as before. The shell from the Protectorate is considered to be generally of very superior quality. It is all obtained by the natives, and they are well aware of its value.

The majority of the beche de mer shewn was procured among the islands of the Santa Cruz group, but does not represent the whole amount exported, as it is believed that unlicensed persons sailing from the New Hebrides have visited this part of the Protectorate, and have obtained some considerable quantity from this locality. At present it is quite impossible to keep any check upon such visits, which generally take place at the time when the men-of-war are absent from the Protectorate.

The following table shews the amounts of exports for the last four years. The figures are approximate only, but are, I think, fairly accurate :—

Statement of Exports.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Beche de Mer.	Rattans.	Coco-nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Plants.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Lbs.	Tons.	Bundles.	Bags.	Bags.	Cases.
1895	1,200	586	6 tons 10 cwt.	891	7 tons 18 cwt.	—	—	—	—
1896	1,383	600	8 tons 9½ cwt.	1,379	3 tons 15 cwt.	—	—	—	—
15 Months. 1st January 1897 to 31st March 1898 ...	1,688	580	8 tons 3¼ cwt.	3,149	5 tons 10 cwt.	290	129	7	23
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899 ...	1,456	85	8 tons 15½ cwt.	3,133¼	4 tons 6¾ cwt.	—	5	2	6

6. TRADE—IMPORTS.

Tobacco continues to be the chief article of import, but it is difficult at present to state the amount with any degree of accuracy. In addition to the amount used by the traders for purposes of exchange, the labour ships dispose of large quantities, either in the purchase of native food, or by way of gifts to the natives.

The demand for boats among the natives is steadily increasing. These are built in Sydney. The Sydney steamer on a recent voyage carried no less than seventeen boats, which had been built to the orders of local traders for sale to natives, most of which were already sold before arrival.

There has been a marked increase in the import of timber, roofing iron, &c., for buildings. Both the Melanesian and the Marist Fathers Mission, as well as the traders, have contributed to the increase in these items.

There has also been a considerable increase in the amount of coal imported for the use of Her Majesty's ships of war, the more modern class of vessel now visiting the Protectorate requiring more coal than those of an older type. At the present moment Mr. Nielson, the contractor for the supply of coal for Her Majesty's Navy, has in store at Gavutu a stock of about 1,000 tons, and it is probable that all will be required during the present season.

7. LABOUR TRADE.

The Protectorate was visited by five labour ships from Queensland, which made 11 voyages during the twelve months; and by one ship from Fiji, which made one voyage.

No casualties occurred, nor was any case of firing at recruiting boats reported to me. A native boat's crew of a Queensland labour vessel was convicted of having concealed firearms on board the vessel, and served a sentence of imprisonment at Tulagi, in addition to a fine.

8. SHIPPING.

Two new cutters and a ketch have arrived from Sydney during the year to the order of local traders for service in the Protectorate, and a local schooner has been sold to a trader in New Guinea.

Several of the vessels already here have changed owners during the year, two of them having been bought by the Marist Fathers Mission; otherwise, the list of vessels trading within the Protectorate remains much as before.

Communication with Sydney has been maintained by Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co.'s steamer at intervals of about six weeks, and by the sailing vessel "Chittoor," owned by Mr. Waterhouse, at intervals of about three months.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

9. AGRICULTURE.

I have again to report an increase in the area of land under cultivation by white residents, and this is again likely to be added to in the immediate future.

In addition to the plantations of coco-nuts already existing, a plantation has been commenced at Russell Island. This island has the reputation of producing some of the finest nuts in the Protectorate, and I have taken means for procuring some plant nuts from that locality for the plantation now in course of formation at the Government Station at Tulagi.

I hesitate, in the absence of accurate information, to make an estimate of the area now under coco-nuts planted by white residents, but the increase, since my former report, has been considerable. From its freedom from hurricanes the Protectorate is eminently suitable for the formation of coco-nut plantations, and large areas of flat coast lands are available.

Coffee still remains in the experimental stage, but favourable reports have reached me of Mr. Svensen's two plantations on Guadalcanar. No sign of leaf disease has at present manifested itself.

The experimental plantation at the Government Station is already bearing fruit.

10. CATTLE.

Cows are kept at three stations, viz., at Ugi, Marau, and Gavutu, and the climate seems to suit them. The number kept will certainly increase as coco-nut plantations are formed ; but it is not advisable to put cows under coco-nuts until the trees are about five years old, as they eat the leaves of the young trees. After that time the trees will have grown out of their reach, and their presence is beneficial, as tending to keep down the growth of weeds and grass. The climate of the Protectorate appears to be unsuited to sheep.

During the year a horse was imported from Sydney by a trader at Rubiana for use on his coco-nut plantation. This was the first horse that had ever been brought to the Solomons. There was some difficulty in landing the animal, and, after spending a day on a platform lashed between two boats, it had eventually to be towed over a coral reef. However, after the landing was effected it made up for the inconvenience it had been subjected to. The natives evinced the greatest dread of the, to them, gigantic creature, and could not be induced to go near it. It soon became unmanageable and wandered at will about the bush, a terror to the neighbourhood. From some cause unexplained it died a month or two after arrival, doubtless to the intense relief of the natives.

11. MINERALS.

No further attempt has been made during the year to prospect for minerals, the ill success of the American expedition in 1897 having apparently choked off all further enterprise for the present.

A very small seam of what appeared to be coal was pointed out to me by the natives during a visit to the south coast of the island of Guadalcanar, near the village of Bolonda, to the east of Cape Hunter. They assured me that it would burn. I was at the time starting upon an inland trip, and upon my return the boulder in which the seam occurred had been broken up by the action of the waves. The supposed occurrence of coal from the same locality has been previously reported.

A more careful examination than the time at my disposal permitted would be necessary before any opinion could be expressed.*

12. METEOROLOGICAL.

The weather during the year has been unmarked by anything out of the usual course.

The S.E. Trades were not so strong as usual, and during the N.W. season no gale of any strength occurred at all in the neighbourhood, at least, of the Government Station.

I am, however, informed that in the western portion of the Protectorate the N.W. winds were more severely felt.

Early in January, a sort of tidal wave, probably occasioned by heavy weather somewhere to the N.N.W. of the group, but unaccompanied by much wind, was experienced on the north coasts of the islands of Florida, Malaita, and San Christoval. Many native houses situated on the beach were washed away, and some small reef islets on the north coast of Malaita were swept clean. No report has reached me of any loss of life.

About the same time, severe shocks of earthquake were experienced at the volcanic island of Savo. Old natives declared them to have been the most severe that have occurred since the last eruption on this island, about 40 years ago. Many of the natives, expecting a fresh eruption, got ready their canoes to leave the island; but the expected outbreak did not take place.

The rain gauge which has been kept at the Government Station since the beginning of October 1897 registered for the twelve months January to December 1898 a total rainfall of 147·39 inches. Rain fell on 240 days.

* I have since ascertained from Mr. T. H. Switzer, at present master of the labour schooner "Sybil," that he made a report of the occurrence of coal in this locality. He informs me that some samples were brought to him by natives living at the mouth of the Ithina River, and burnt readily upon the application of a match.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

For the first three months of 1899, apparently the wettest season of the year, the rainfall registered shows 43·78 inches, as against 65·95 for the same three months of 1898. More extended observations are necessary before an annual average can be ascertained; but the observations already made will show that the Protectorate is not at all likely to suffer from want of rain.

I append a statement copied from my rain register, together with some records previously obtained:—

OBSERVATIONS OF RAINFALL IN SOLOMON ISLANDS IN INCHES.

1882 at Santa Anna.		1882 at Ugi.	
Month.	Inches.	Month.	Inches.
November	7·60	October	10·68
December	13·96	November	10·16
		December	9·57
	21·56		30·41

1883 at Santa Anna.		1883 at Ugi.	
Month.	Inches.	Month.	Inches.
January	5·23	January	13·46
February	9·63	February	13·89
March	4·40	March	10·02
April	14·96	April	23·28
May	11·28	May	6·39
June	26·88	June	12·83
July	18·61	July	24·60
August...	11·74	August	15·76
September	4·81	September	7·35
October	5·68	October	5·15
November	6·57	November	5·30
December	5·24	December	8·20
	125·03		146·24

Observations of Rainfall at Government Station, Tulagi, in inches.

—	1897.			1898.			1899.		
	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.
January	—	—	—	9·51	18	1·98	14·27	27	2·42
February	—	—	—	28·55	21	3·72	12·04	19	3·45
March	—	—	—	27·89	22	4·93	17·47	20	4·15
April	—	—	—	6·67	19	1·85	—	—	—
May...	—	—	—	4·19	18	1·02	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	4·86	15	·87	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	4·86	23	1·11	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	9·94	24	2·89	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	10·58	18	2·70	—	—	—
October	2·91	8	1·17	10·23	18	2·76	—	—	—
November	5·66	17	1·17	21·14	22	4·50	—	—	—
December	11·03	18	1·98	8·97	22	1·41	—	—	—
	19·60	43	—	147·39	240	—	43·78	66	—

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

13. WORK ON THE GOVERNMENT STATION AT TULAGI.

Work at the Government Station has steadily progressed since the date of my last report.

The boat-house and landing stage then in course of construction were shortly afterwards finished. A way, with rollers, has been laid down for hauling up and launching the boat.

Another house, destined at present for occupation by my assistant, has been completed and is now ready for occupation.

No paid white labour has been employed in the execution of these works, everything having been done by myself with the assistance of prison labour.

All buildings, boats, and other Government property are in good order, and sufficient materials (except timber) are in stock to maintain them in the same condition.

Planting and clearing operations have been vigorously proceeded with during the year.

A swamp of about an acre and a half, near the landing place, has been cleared of mangrove, and drains have been cut through it admitting the salt water at high tide; but it is proposed gradually to fill it up above high-water mark. Coco-nuts have been planted in it wherever possible.

An area of particularly fine coco-nut land, on the south side of the island, has been cleared of heavy timber, and an area of about thirty acres is now ready for planting. Seven acres have been already planted, and the remainder will be planted as soon as the plant nuts are ready.

In planting, I am using only the best selected nuts, and they are set out as soon as the sprout appears, thus obviating a second removal.

The trees are planted 33 feet apart, a system which gives 40 trees to the acre.

I am no believer in forecasts of agricultural results, as I have seen them so often falsified by events, but judging from the produce of existing plantations here, the return from these nuts in five or six years' time should be worth at least £5 per acre per annum.

A further area of similar land is available, and work will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

Of the area under bananas, sweet potatoes, and "panas" (a species of yam), the two former are giving good returns. The latter are almost ready to dig, but so much native food is at present being brought for sale that I propose to defer digging them for the present.

The experimental plantations of coffee and cocoa are in a thriving condition, and the former is bearing.

A cutting of ceara rubber, planted in August 1897, has grown into a tree fifteen feet in height, with a stem six inches in diameter.

The total area at present under cultivation may be set down as about 60 acres.

The following is a list of trees or plants at present under cultivation at the Government Station:—

Industrial, Food, and Fruit Plants.

Bermuda arrowroot.
Sugar cane.
Papau (Carica papaga).
Orange (Mandarin).
„ (Paramatta).
Egg fruit (Solanum).
Granadilla (Passiflora).
China beans.
Piper betel.
Piper methisticum.
Areca palm.
Coco-nut palm.
Sago palm.
Banana (4 varieties).
Taro (Caladium esculentum).
Tamarind.
Vanilla.
Turmeric (2 varieties).
Agava rigida.
Foureroya gigantea.
Lemon.
Lime.
Pumpkin.
Water melon.
Tomato.
Yam (2 varieties).
Cassava.
Chili pepper.
Capsicum.
Custard apple.
Pine apple.
Coffee (4 varieties).
Cocoa.
Ginger (Jamaica).
Cinnamon.
Mangosteen.
Sweet potato.
Ceara rubber.
Ficus elastica.
Tobacco.

Ornamental.

Coleus.
Dracœna (varieties).
Bougainvillea.
Alamanda (2 varieties).
Eucharis Amazonica.
Amaryllis (varieties).
Canna (4 varieties).
Caladium (2 varieties).
A malvacious shrub?
Lagerstroemia ovata.
Clerodendron.
Adiantum farleyense.
Lygodium (2 species).
Orchids:—
Cypripedium barbatum.
Dendrobium spectabile.
Orchids—*cont.*
Local species (15).
Frangipani.
Gardenia florida.
Celosia.
Hibiscus (5 varieties).
Phlox (3 varieties).
Taxonia manicata.
Ixora.
Anthurium crystallinum.
Crinum Moorei.
Crotons (various).
Mignonette.
Palms (5 species).
Poinciana regia.
&c.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

14. VISITS OF WAR SHIPS.

During the season of 1898, the Protectorate was visited by H.M. Ships "Mohawk" and "Goldfinch." Both ships, among other duties, were engaged in proclaiming the extension of the Protectorate over the Santa Cruz group and adjacent islands, as previously reported. This period of duty in the Protectorate extended from May 6th, when the "Mohawk" arrived, to October 23rd, when the "Goldfinch" finally left for the season, or a period of nearly six months.

Commander Freeman, of the "Mohawk," investigated and dealt with the case of the attack upon the trader Pascal Jean Prat, and at Simbo arrested an important chief of that island for a most blood-thirsty murder of 10 native women during a head-hunting raid.

The arrest, and subsequent detention pending trial, of this man at the Government Station, has produced a most excellent effect among the natives of the western portion of the Protectorate where the practice of head-hunting prevails.

From Lieut. Commander Leggatt, of H.M.S. "Goldfinch," I received most valuable assistance in administering punishment to the natives of Ugi, for repeated acts of theft from the local trader. The punishment, although of a very mild character, has produced the desired result, and not only have no further complaints been received, but on a recent visit to Ugi, I was informed by the trader that the behaviour of the natives since my former visit had been satisfactory, and that they had brought in a large quantity of copra for sale.

The French warship "Eure" paid a short visit to the Protectorate, to visit the newly established mission station of the Marist Fathers at Rua Sura; and the German warship "Falke" is reported to have made a brief call at the Island of "Sikiana" while on a voyage to the German Solomons.

15. PRISONS.

The number of prisoners under detention at the Government Station during the year has been twenty-one (21). Of these, the majority were minor cases under the local native code established by me in 1898 for the island of Gela or Florida.

A native of Ulawa is serving a sentence of three years for manslaughter; a "boat's crew" of a labour ship, a native of San Christoval, a sentence of six months, in addition to a fine, for aiding in the illegal introduction of fire-arms, and a Frenchman a sentence of six months for theft.

A native of Simbo is under detention, pending trial, for murder.

A Fijian half caste was detained for some months on a charge of murdering a white man by administering corrosive sublimate in a cup of tea in January 1898, but was discharged for want of evidence to support the charge.

A native of Savo was brought to me charged with causing the death of another Savo native by means of witchcraft. After investigation the man was discharged.

A native of Guadalcanar, who was arrested by the natives themselves and brought to me on an alleged charge of murder, which upon investigation I came to the conclusion he was not concerned in, refuses to leave the Government Station, being probably afraid to return home, and remains here at will.

16. GENERAL.

During the year almost every island in the Solomons (proper) has been visited either by myself or by Mr. Mahaffy, my assistant.

The latter proceeded in June to the Western part of the Protectorate in H.M.S. "Mohawk," and was present when punishment was inflicted upon the natives of Billowa, on Vella Lavella, for an attack upon the trader Pascal Jean Prat in the previous November. Mr. Mahaffy left the "Mohawk" at the island of Simbo. From there he proceeded in Mr. Prat's schooner on a voyage through the Western Islands, including Treasury Island, returning to Tulagi from Rubiana in August. The account of his voyage, embodied in a very valuable and interesting report, has been already communicated. It relates largely to the subject of head-hunting raids. Mr. Mahaffy again visited Simbo in H.M.S. "Goldfinch" at a later date.

In September, accompanied by two native policemen, I visited the island of Ulawa, being courteously conveyed thither in the Melanesian Mission steamer "Southern Cross," for the purpose of arresting a native charged with killing his father.

Having arrested my prisoner I had to spend a week on the island, there being no means of getting away; and I at last left in a boat for Ugi. Here I was again detained a week, while a cutter belonging to the local trader was being repaired; and another prisoner, whom I had arrested for theft, escaped, after being five days in custody, by filing off his handcuffs. I eventually left Ugi for Marau Sound, on Guadalcanar, in the above mentioned cutter, and after being three days at sea I met H.M.S. "Goldfinch" and returned in her to Ugi, where, with the assistance of Lieut. Commander Leggatt, I administered punishment to the natives for repeated acts of theft.

I have also visited the island of Santa Anna, where I temporarily arrested a man for illtreating his wife; the island of San Christoval once; Savo has been visited four or five times, and the north coast of Guadalcanar several times. The island of Malaita has been visited in several places by Mr. Mahaffy on board either the "Mohawk" or "Goldfinch," and once by myself.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9

In November 1898 I made an expedition occupying seven days into the interior of the island of Guadalcanar, from the south coast, with the object of ascending the high peak of Mount Lammas, stated to be 8,008 feet high. The bush natives met with were at first extremely shy, but eventually very friendly. An account of this journey is herewith enclosed. The topographical information obtained during the trip has been forwarded to Admiral Sir William Wharton, the Hydrographer at the Admiralty.

EXPEDITION TO MOUNTAINS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND OF GUADALCANAR.

The following is an account of an expedition undertaken by myself, accompanied by Mr. Svensen of Marau, with the view of ascending the high central mountain range of Guadalcanar, of which Mount Lammas, stated by Captain Denham, of H.M.S. "Herald," to be 8,008 feet high, and to be situated in latitude 9°44′ S. and longitude 160° E., has generally been supposed to be the highest.

The expedition failed in its main object for several reasons, the first being that it was uncertain which peak really was Mount Lammas, secondly that the Mount Lammas of Captain Denham is incorrectly placed upon the chart, thirdly that the peak which I suppose to be the Mount Lammas of Denham and Shortland is not the highest peak upon Guadalcanar, the neighbouring conspicuous mountain range of Kavo being certainly several hundred feet higher, and lastly, because it was found impossible, with the resources at our disposal, to carry sufficient food for an absence from the coast of more than one week, going and coming.

The expedition, such as it was, however, may be considered an entire success. The natives met with although at first extremely shy were eventually most friendly, and this, it must not be forgotten, in a district only a very few miles distant from the place where the Austrian expedition, belonging to the warship "Albatros," was attacked with such unfortunate results in 1896, the facts of which were well known to the bush natives with whom we came in contact.

The botanical results of the trip proved to be not altogether devoid of interest, and tend to show that the conditions at an altitude of from about 4,000 feet to 6,000 feet in the Solomons are much the same as those encountered by Sir William Macgregor in New Guinea at similar altitudes.

The experience gained on the present expedition will make it easy to achieve the ascent of the Kavo range at a future time; in fact, except for the want of food, we could have reached Kavo in about another day and a half from the point where we turned back. Leaving Tulagi, the Government Station, on the morning of November 11th in Mr. Svensen's schooner the "Sikiana," we

reached the island of Savo the same afternoon, and anchored for the night. Departing from Savo the next day, we arrived and anchored in Wanderer Bay, on the S.W. coast of Guadalcanar, on the morning of November 13th.

It was at this place that Mr. Benjamin Boyd was murdered about the year 1853, and the bay is named after his yacht the "Wanderer."

An old native pointed out to me on the return from our trip—for I was careful not to refer to the matter before—the place where the murder actually took place.

As soon as we dropped anchor a message was sent to the chief Pauro, who is a man of considerable influence both among the coast dwellers and those living in the bush in this neighbourhood, and he arrived on board during the afternoon. Mr. Svensen, on a previous visit, had sounded him upon the practicability of a mountain expedition, and, upon his arrival, he at once expressed his willingness to accompany us.

Our plans having been previously talked over, it was arranged to leave the schooner at anchor at Wanderer Bay in charge of Mr. Svensen's mate until our return.

We therefore started the following morning, November 14th, at daylight, in a boat and one canoe for the village of Veuvu close to Cape Hunter. The party consisted of myself, Mr. Svensen, two white men of Mr. Svensen's crew, two of my native police, five San Christoval natives in Mr. Svensen's employment, with the chief Pauro and one of his men.

We reached Veuvu about 9 o'clock, and rested about two hours for breakfast and to arrange the loads each was to carry.

The boat and canoe were left here until our return in care of the local chief Baumate.

A message was sent to a native who was said to know the mountain district well, as he had been in the habit of going there to hunt for opossums (cuscus). He arrived after some delay, having been summoned from his garden, and expressed his readiness to accompany us.

Leaving Veuvu about 11 o'clock, we climbed by a very steep track to the top of the spur forming the point of Cape Hunter, from which we had an equally steep descent to the mouth of the Ithina river on the east side of Cape Hunter.

The view as we descended the eastern slope of the Cape Hunter spur was remarkable. To the eastward stretched a long straight pebble beach of about four miles in extent, strewn with a regular streak of what, from our elevation, looked like matchwood or small white sticks, but which, on a closer examination, proved to be the trunks of enormous trees, evidently carried down by the Ithina River in flood time, and washed up for miles upon the beach by the action of the surf.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

Some of these trees must have been quite six feet in diameter, and nearly a hundred feet long. The Ithina is, perhaps, the largest river on the south coast of Guadalcanar, and drains the whole of the district which it was our fortune afterwards to visit, its head waters coming from the southern slopes of the Kavo range. It has numerous tributaries, some of which we crossed, and the volume of water carried by it must, in times of heavy rain, be something enormous, as we noticed flood marks many feet above the levels at which we were fortunate enough to cross them.

The exit of the river is through a gap in the pebble beach, which probably shifts during the S.E. and N.W. seasons.

Inside the beach is a large fresh water lagoon, said by the natives to be infested with sharks and crocodiles.

We found a few fishing huts at the mouth of the river, and the natives ferried our party over one at a time in two very crazy and leaky canoes. The passage of the whole party occupied nearly an hour, and we then continued our walk to the eastward along the beach for about three miles to some native huts, just short of the village of Bolonda.

Here we stopped for the night, the natives supplying us with a pig and some roots of taro, upon which our people feasted.

The following morning, November 15th, we started at daylight, and reached Bolonda soon after six.

We had been here joined, temporarily, by three or four other natives, and, shortly before reaching Bolonda, one of them drew my attention to some large boulders of clayey sandstone on the beach, in which he pointed out a narrow seam of what was, apparently, coal. He told me that it would burn like the fuel used on board steamers. I determined to test it on our return, but unfortunately the boulder in question had been then broken up by the action of the surf, and, although I picked up two or three lumps of a black coal-like looking stone, I was unable to get them to burn in a fire. The occurrence of coal in this locality has been already reported.*

The village of Bolonda, although at one time an important place, we found entirely, but evidently only recently, deserted; and we were told that the natives had moved some distance inland.

From here we struck into the bush. Following a very steep and rocky track in a north-easterly direction, we came in about two miles to the village of Warigalia, where we halted for breakfast.

---

* I have since ascertained from Mr. T. H. Switzer, at present master of the labour schooner "Sybil," that he made a report of the occurrence of coal in this locality. He informs me that some samples brought to him by natives living at the mouth of the Ithina River burnt readily upon the application of a match.

Here our opossum-hunting guide, whom we had obtained from Veuvu, said he could go no further, as he was sick.

He was accordingly left behind, but, through Pauro's influence, we obtained two other men, one of whom remained with us until our return.

From this village we had a fine view westward over the estuary of the Ithina towards Cape Hunter and the land towards Wanderer Bay.

Leaving Warigalia we proceeded in a northerly direction, the land rising all the time to a height of 1,600 feet, until we came to a sharp descent of about 500 feet leading down to the Kolondoma River, a tributary of the Ithina, running to the westward through a rocky gorge to the westward.

[NOTE.—The prefix "Kolo" is frequently met with applied to the names of rivers in the interior of Guadalcanar. I met with many such instances during my previous trips in the mountains from Aola during the years 1886 to 1888, and from a bush tribe living near the head waters of the Kobua River I obtained the information that it signified "water." I am not aware that it is so used at present by any of the coast people, but it also occurs as a compound word in the language of Rubiana, where the natives told me the word for "salt water" was "Kolohokara," "fresh water" being "lena," and there is a small island in the Rubiana lagoon containing a well of fresh water which is known as "Kolohiti."]

This we had to cross and re-cross three or four times, but as the water was low it presented no great difficulty; and then we struck into a very steep native track leading up a spur trending in a northerly direction. Foot holes were cut in the rock, and rattans were placed in position to aid the ascent but they were in very bad condition and the track seemed to be very little used.

At about noon we halted at a height of 2,500 feet for lunch. Already we had begun to enter the region of ferns and moss. The stems of the trees and the ground were covered with a luxuriant mossy growth, but not so dense as we afterwards met with. I noticed many terrestrial orchids of several species, but nothing of a striking nature. Here, too, I met with a beautiful foliage plant, "anectochilus" sp., which has already been recorded from elsewhere upon Guadalcanar. Everything was moist and spongy, and rain now set in, continuing all the afternoon. We arrived, about 3 p.m., at the so-called village of Rambubu. This consisted of two huts, and appeared to be only used by natives when cultivating some rather fertile taro gardens in the vicinity.

Here we found about eight natives, men and women, who did not appear to be best pleased to see us, and at first sulked persistently; but Pauro having told them that we had come to stay,

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

and that one of the huts must be given up to us, for which they would be well paid, they eventually relaxed, and provided our boys with some most excellent taro.

The rain continued to descend in torrents, and we were all in a state of greater or less discomfort. The temperature was quite chilly, the thermometer being down to 70°. The aneroid gave the altitude about 2,700 feet.

About five o'clock the rain fortunately ceased, and we were able to inspect our surroundings. We had a fine view of the mountains to the westward as far as the western part of the island, whilst on our right the sharp peak of Legombi was very conspicuous.

Immediately in front of us, but far below, was the gorge of the Teremalenga River, a tributary of the Ithina, taking its origin at the foot of the high mountain of Popomanasiu, from which it came through a deep rocky cleft by a fine fall of perhaps 400 feet.

From Legombi, on our right, the mountains shut us in in a horse-shoe formation as far as north-east. The names of the peaks and their bearings from Rambubu being as follows :— Legombi, 112°; Kuruvembau, 74°; Popomanasiu, 65°; Bulamarau, 56°; Paguruguru, 43°; and Tasambara, 34°.

The high range of Kavo was hidden behind Popomanasiu.

Of these Popomanasiu was certainly the highest, and it lay in the direction of the Kavo range. We thought it probable that we might find a saddle connecting it on the north side with the Kavo range, as appears to be the case from a distant view taken from the north side of the island. In this hope, however, we were mistaken.

The top of this mountain has two low summits, which, from some fanciful resemblance to inverted coco-nut shells, have earned the mountain its name, which means "the food bowl and the drinking cup." The natives sometimes refer to it as Siumanapopo, which, of course, means "the drinking cup and the food bowl." This mountain, then, we decided to climb the following day.

The people of Rambubu having cleared out the larger of the two huts for our accommodation, we made ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night.

Shortly before dark a young native arrived from the village of Taringa, situated on the opposite side of the Teremalenga gorge. He had been summoned by signals blown on conch shells after our arrival at Rambubu, and was said to have a good knowledge of the mountains. The spears carried by these bush natives are short and stout, about 7 feet in length, and are used as aids in climbing as well as for purposes of offence.

Next morning, November 16th, leaving the two white men and some of our natives at Rambubu, Mr. Svensen and I, with nine natives, continued on towards Popomanasiu.

From the village we had first a very steep descent of 1,100 feet to the crossing of the Teremalenga River, which we forded just above a fine waterfall named Namugade.

Fortunately the river was comparatively low. Ropes of rattan were stretched from side to side to assist people in crossing, which afforded a none too secure hold. The river was encumbered with large boulders over which the water broke, making it difficult to know where to place one's feet, and, just below, the waterfall was waiting ready for anyone who might get into difficulties. I considered that I was fortunate in getting over without getting my instruments wet.

From the river we rose again, equally steeply, through some patches of taro cultivation. The slopes on which the taro was planted are so steep that they had to bank the soil up with stones and trunks of trees to prevent it washing away.

At one place the track passed under a waterfall, which shot out clear several feet from the face of the cliff from which it fell.

About ten o'clock we met some natives of the village of Taringa working in their gardens, and made a short halt on the slope of Paiguruguru, at an altitude of 2,400 feet.

Proceeding on again, we followed a track leading in an easterly direction on to a spur, which brought us to the top of Paiguruguru at an altitude of 4,400 feet.

At this altitude it was already pleasantly cool, the thermometer standing at 68°, and walking was rendered much pleasanter. We were now in a district where probably it rains every day in the year. The trunks and boughs of the trees were festooned with long trails of moss and lichen, while the ground was simply carpeted with the most beautiful ferns and mosses, into which one sank to the knees as into a sponge.

Here I noticed for the first time a singular climbing bamboo with a habit of growth like a rattan cane. I believe a similar species, probably identical, has been noticed in British New Guinea. I noticed, among the roots of the trees, some large holes, evidently used by some animal, and was told by our natives that they were the holes of the gigantic bush rat, "mus imperator," a species discovered by me some years ago, and, so far as is known, peculiar to this island. It is the largest species of rat known. A male specimen, now in the Natural History Museum, measured from head to point of tail within a fraction of two feet long. I was told that the natives come here occasionally to hunt for them with dogs. The track which up to mid-day had been moderately well defined, now became rather uncertain, but we continued along the ridge in an easterly and north-easterly direction, descending slightly. We were evidently on the saddle joining Paiguruguru and Bulamarau, but the bush was too thick to get a bearing of any value.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

During the afternoon, we had two hours rain, and we were all thoroughly well drenched when we decided to camp about 5 p.m., on the top of the saddle, and just at the base of what we, at the time, supposed was Popomanasiu, but which we found out afterwards was Bulamarau.

Just before we reached the camping place, my attention was directed by the natives to some seedlings of a species of dacrydium resembling the Norfolk Island pine. The roots were growing in the mossy carpet where the seeds had fallen, and had not yet reached the soil. The native name is "tumbolu." I found, by searching, some mature trees, but was unable to find the fruit cone. I was fortunate enough to establish some of these seedlings in pots after my return, and two of them reached the Botanical Gardens in Sydney in good condition. I also noticed several specimens of an extremely handsome palm growing, with a straight stem, to a height of about 60 feet. The roots were partly aerial, and reminded me of the Fijian species kentia exoriza. It was probably a kentia or areca, but I was unable to procure seeds in ripe condition.

Two huts roofed with tree fern and other leaves were quickly constructed, and having made fires and cooked some rice and tinned meat for the party, we made ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night.

Fortunately there was neither rain nor wind, and a fairly comfortable night was passed, there being nothing to disturb us but the incessant croaking of the frogs, the murmur of the stream near which we had camped, and other innumerable and inexplicable noises always to be heard on even the stillest night in the bush.

Close to our huts I had noticed two strange looking cylindrical holes in the ground. These were about three feet in diameter, and about the same in depth. The natives told me they were the holes made by wild dogs, and that a pack of about sixty used formerly to frequent the mountain. They were said to hunt in company, and had been known to attack and kill men. Some time ago the natives organised a hunting party and either killed or dispersed them. I afterwards came upon more of these dog holes, some of which were enlarged at the bottom like an inverted funnel. The following morning, November 17th, as soon as we had had breakfast, Mr. Svensen and myself with two natives started for the top of Popomanasiu, which we believed we could reach in an hour, leaving the remainder of the party in camp. There was no track, but the bush was a little less dense, but still covered with the growth of moss, if possible thicker than what we had passed through the day before.

We had not gone far when we discovered that we were upon the mountain of Balumarau, and not, as we supposed, upon Popomanasiu, so we sent back one of the natives we had with us to bring on the party we had left in camp.

Before they overtook us, we reached the top of Balumarau, which I made by aneroid to be a little over 5,000 feet, the thermometer at 9 a.m. standing at 64°, and the air being particularly dry and bracing, while the moss-covered trees were less like sponges. It is probable that the actual summits of these mountains do not receive so much rain as their slopes. It is a common thing, from a distance, to see the peaks clear and clouds enveloping the slopes.

While resting on the rocky top of the mountain, the rest of our followers joined us. We at once continued our route, following the top of the razor back connecting Bulamarau and Popopanasiu, which now towered right above us, and commenced the ascent.

There was, of course, no track, and walking was very difficult on account of the network of climbing bamboos and interlacing tree roots through which we had to cut or force a way.

I noticed some extremely pretty orchids, both terrestrial and epiphytical, one especially of a mauve colour growing on the branches of low trees. Some of these I successfully transported to Sydney.

After a hard day's work we reached the highest point we could see about 3 p.m., but as the trees, although not high, were very thick, we were unable to get an extended view of our surroundings. We accordingly directed our boys to make a clearing on the top of the mountain, in order to get a better idea of our position. Unfortunately, about 3.30, down came the rain again, and we were once more enveloped in mist and clouds.

We worked away, however, cutting trees until 5 o'clock, and then the natives set about building huts for the night, the rain having gradually ceased.

As the clouds rolled away from the slopes to the north of us, we at last began to get an idea of our position.

Immediately at our feet the mountain dropped steeply down for a distance of probably 3,000 feet to the valley of the Ithina River, and rose again on the opposite side to the great Kavo range, which is undoubtedly the highest point on Guadalcanar.

The long ridge of the top, stretching to the westward, appeared quite close to us and was probably not more than three miles distant in a direct line, but the descent from our position, and ascent again on the other side to reach the range, through bush where every step would have to be cut, would have taken us at least two days' work. I took notice of two or three leading spurs on the opposite side of the valley by which the top of the range might have been reached, but I was disappointed in not finding any sort of a saddle connecting Popomanasiu with the Kavo range.

Through a small depression in the top of the range I was fortunate enough to get a bearing of the top of the island of Savo,

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

distant 40 miles, which bore 336° from our position, and by climbing a low tree I was able to see the Russell Island Archipelago, the central point bearing 299°, the islands of which appeared with all the distinctness of a map, although they were distant more than 60 miles.

The eastern peak of the Kavo range bore 12°, east of that everything was shrouded in mist; and I was disappointed in not getting any view of the islands of Gela or Malaita, or even of the conspicuous rocky peak of the Lion's Head, which I knew could not be more than a very few miles distant. Behind us to the S.E. and S. everything was shut out from view by the thick bush.

While the natives were preparing food I boiled the thermo meter, and found that we were at an altitude of very nearly 6,000 feet.

After dinner we proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night, although we were all wet through, and I was shivering with cold, the thermometer being down to 59°.

Fortunately there was no rain during the night, and the atmosphere was so still that a candle would have burnt unprotected. In the morning we all felt equal to another day's climbing, but now the food difficulty stood in our way. We had economised as much as possible, but we had now been away from the ship four days, and we expected to have been back again in that time.

For breakfast there was half a biscuit, and a cup of weak soup made of a handful of rice and the rinsings of the tins, per man.

We then considered what was to be done. We had only partly attained our object. Pauro, the old chief who had accompanied us from Wanderer Bay, said to me in excellent Fijian, "Never mind Sir, day or night, food or no food, if you say we are to go to Kavo we will go." Having taken everything into consideration, however, Mr. Svensen and I decided to return. Before starting we cut down a few more trees to see if we could get a more extended view, but the clouds, as before, shrouded everything to the east of north. To the westward it was clear and we got bearings of the peaks above Tiaro and Veisali, but even the Kavo range was this morning shrouded in cloud. We found now that we were not exactly on the top of Popomanasiu, but that the actual summit was about a quarter of a mile eastward and perhaps 300 feet higher than our position, but we decided that with a long day's work before us, it was not worth while to go any further. So, about seven o'clock, we began the return journey. We returned the way we came, and not having now to cut our track we, of course, made better progress.

We reached our previous camping place about 11 o'clock, and from there sent on one of the natives to meet us at the crossing

of the Teremalenga River with some cooked native food. About noon the rain came down again in torrents, and we reached the river in such a state that it made no difference whether we got wetter or not. We had some difficulty in crossing, as the river had risen about two feet since our previous passage, and was still rising. By the aid of the rattan ropes we at last all got over, and then fell upon the meal of cooked taro which had been prepared for us, and which we sorely needed. The climb of 1,100 feet up to the village of Rambubu was not the least fatiguing part of the day's work, but we reached the village at last, about five o'clock, where we found the two white men somewhat anxiously awaiting our return.

They told us that it had hardly ceased raining since we left, so that we might consider that we had been somewhat fortunate.

Dry clothes and a comparatively sound roof made life appear worth living once more, and although there was quite a brisk stream of water running through the centre of the house, and the leaves upon which we had to sleep were more or less saturated with wet, we contrived to get a good night.

The natives of Rambubu were now extremely friendly. They had supplied our people with food during our absence, and upon our return produced a pig and a quantity of taro for our party.

At daylight the following morning we paid off our mountain guides and the people of Rambubu for entertaining us.

One of the guides had accidentally left a large knife behind, but volunteered to go back and fetch it a distance of four miles. This we would not allow him to do, telling him that he might keep it as part of his pay.

The pay consisted of axes, knives, the blankets we had slept in, porpoise teeth, and a small quantity of tobacco, and was on such a lavish scale from these poor people's point of view, that not only did they express entire satisfaction, a very rare thing to meet with among natives, but they invited us to come again, and said that they would do everything they could for us.

We left them in the best of spirits about eight o'clock and, in drenching rain, continued our return journey to the coast.

We walked all the morning through the most pitiless rain, and about noon reached the crossings of the Kolondoma River. The river had risen considerably since our former crossing, and we had some difficulty in getting over, the passage of the whole party occupying nearly an hour, but we eventually succeeded without damage to anything of value.

We reached Warigalia during the afternoon, where we found the man we had left sick most miraculously cured.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

We paid off the two men we had taken from this [place], and after a short rest continued down to the coast, reaching the huts where we had slept on our way up shortly before dark.

A large number of coast natives had assembled here to see us and hear our adventures.

After some persuasion a good supply of native food and a pig was produced, and the boys again feasted royally. We resumed our march at daylight the next morning, and I availed myself of the delay occasioned by our crossing of the mouth of the Ithina River to take a round of compass bearings to all visible points.

We arrived at the village of Veuvu about 11 o'clock. I had not seen Baumate, the chief of this village, on our way up, but another man, who bore a most striking resemblance to him and might have been his twin brother, had been put forward to personate him.

The reason I believe to have been that he knew that a complaint had been made to me against him of a desire on his part to take heads from some villages further along the coast. The matter appeared to have been amicably arranged. We found the old man in his house suffering from a very bad cut in the knee, which he had accidentally inflicted upon himself with an axe.

The wound, having been neglected, was in a very bad state. We made one of his women thoroughly cleanse it with hot water, and Mr. Svensen then dressed it with iodoform, and left some with him for future use. He seemed extremely grateful for the attention, and I have since heard he has quite recovered.

We then launched our boat and canoe, and reached Wanderer Bay late in the afternoon, having been absent from the ship just a week.

The behaviour of the old chief Pauro of Wanderer Bay was, throughout our expedition, above all praise, and it was undoubtedly due to his influence and presence that we found the bush natives so civil. He had previously worked in Fiji many years ago, and told me that he had been stolen, his canoe having been broken up by the ship that took him. His assistance would be extremely valuable and almost indispensable in the event of another attempt being made to reach the Kavo range from the south side of the island; but I think, and have always thought, that Kavo would be more easily reached from the north coast.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to Rear Admiral Sir William Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S., Hydrographer to the Admiralty, containing such topographical data as I made during the trip. The maps therein referred to I have not herewith enclosed.

Government Residence, Tulagi,

British Solomon Islands,

31st March 1899.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM WHARTON,

I send you herewith, in the hope that they may prove interesting, a few observations that I made during a trip in November last year to the mountains of Guadalcanar. I also enclose a map and some profile tracings.

You will see that my information differs almost entirely from what is given on the chart. The southern coast of Guadalcanar is certainly all wrong, but you may be able to evolve some sort of order out of chaos and reconcile the apparently opposed data.

I undertook the expedition with the object of climbing Mount Lammas; but although you will see that I climbed a mountain very close to the position given to Mount Lammas on the chart, I could not find it or see any mountain 2,000 feet higher than the peak I reached (as Mount Lammas should have been) except the Kavo range.

I have planned out my route on a tracing of the large plan of Guadalcanar, disregarding all previous information, and also another track on a larger scale; these I enclose with the others.

The highest mountain on Guadalcanar, and by far the most conspicuous from the north side, is the long down-shaped Kavo range, which has never yet appeared upon the chart at all.

My idea of the actual facts is this: I assume and believe the Lion's Head, Tatuve, of the Austrian expedition of 1896, to be pretty nearly in its proper position. The high peak south of it, called in the present chart Popomanisao, and assumed to be about 7,000 feet (I am responsible for both the name and the height, the former I obtained from the Aola natives in 1887 and I estimated the latter), is, I believe, the Mount Lammas of Shortland and Denham. It should appear, perhaps, about two miles further south than it is represented. It seems to be connected with the Lion's Head by a saddle. A glance at the profile sketch No. 3 will show you at once that there is no other high mountain visible from Tulagi between that peak and the Kavo range except the peak I ascended. The name of Popomanasao must come out. It is not the name of the high peak south of the Lion's Head but of the peak I climbed. The correct spelling would be *Popomanasiu*, and means "the food bowl and the drinking cup." The natives sometimes call it Siumanapopo,

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

which, of course, means "the drinking cup and the food bowl." The origin of the name arises from the fact that the mountain has two twin summits like inverted coco-nut shells.

You will have to alter the upper course of the Balesuna River more to the westward, as it evidently comes down from the eastern and north-eastern slopes of the Kavo range. The eastern branches of the Ithina River are pretty correctly defined upon my route plan, but there are probably more affluents on the right bank. The volume of water discharged by this river during heavy floods must be very great, as evidenced by the enormous trees that strew the beach from Cape Hunter to Bolonda.

I do not know who gave the information about the occurrence of coal near the mouth of the Ithina River, but it is doubtless there. The natives pointed it out to me close to the village of Bolonda. The vein was only about an inch thick, and was in a large boulder of clayey sandstone which had dropped down to the beach from the land above. On our return the boulder in question had been broken up by the surf, and the only likely-looking specimens I could find in the neighbourhood resisted the action of a hot wood fire for twenty minutes without change. The natives told me that the stuff they pointed out to me *did* burn like the coal used on board steamers.

The composition of the Popomanasiu range appears to be a very hard dark rock, apparently basalt.

I append the observations I made for determining the height of Popomanasiu. The aneroid shews the greater altitude than the thermometer, but the latter is, of course, far more accurate.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD.

Rear Admiral
Sir William Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S.,
&c., &c., &c.,
The Admiralty, London.

COMPASS BEARINGS taken during visit to the PEAK of POPOMANASIU in the ISLAND of GUADALCANAR, SOLOMON ISLANDS, in November 1898.

Bearings from mouth of Ithina River:—

	Deg
Rock outside Cape Hunter	229
Cape Henslow	90
A nearer point of land	89.30
Visu Point (distant 11 miles)	86
Bolonda Point and village	69.30
Legombi Mt.	66
Kuruvembau Mt.	62
Vatuvisa Mt.	60
Popomanasiu Mt.	56.30
Bulamarau Mt.	53
Tasebara Mt.	50.30
Paiguruguru Mt.	49.30

Rough bearing, centre of Kavo range from Cape Hunter 25

Bearings from village of Rambubu:—

Legombi Mt.	113
Kuruvembau Mt.	75.30
Popomanasiu Mt.	65.30
Bulamarau Mt.	52.30
Paiguruguru Mt.	42
Tasambara Mt.	34
Centre of high saddle behind Wanderer Bay	274

Bearings from Popomanasiu Mt.:—

Kavo (eastern peak of range)	12
„ (another peak of range)	348
Top of Savo Island, through depression in Kavo range	336
Centre of Russell Island	299
Lower conical hill behind Tiaro (Yarrow Bay of chart)	297
Upper conical hill, behind Tiaro ...	307
Peak behind Vaturanga (Coughlan Harbour of chart)	312
Sharp cone behind Veisali	317

Bearings taken at sea close to Tree Cay (an island off West Cape, Guadalcanar):—

A high distant peak, probably Mt. Lammas of Shortland and Hunter ...	105
Centre of Kavo range	99

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898–9.

Bearings from Government Residence, Tulagi:—

	Deg.
Lion's Head (Tatuve)	168
Mount Lammas (?)	169.30
Popomanasiu (the peak I climbed) ...	177
Eastern peak of Kavo range	177.30

Names of rivers:—Ithina, Kolondoma, Teremalenga, and Kolovaravara.

Names of villages:—Bolonda, Warigalia, Rambubu or Rambumbu.

Thermometer (Royal Geographical Society's No. 8):—

	Deg.
In shade at sea level, Bolonda	75
In shade at top of Popomanasiu	59

Aneroid (Royal Geographical Society's No. 32):—

At sea level at Bolonda	29.80
At top of Popomanasiu	23.95

Boiling point, thermometer at top of Popomanasiu:—

Royal Geographical Society's No. 19 ...	201.9
" " " No. 20 ...	201.9
Aneroid at halting place between village of Warigalia and Kolondoma River	28.25
Aneroid at halting place between Kolonda River and village of Rambubu	27.32
Aneroid at Rambubu	27.20
Aneroid crossing top of Paiguruguru	25.57
Aneroid at camp, foot of Bulamarau	25.60
Aneroid at top of Bulamarau	24.80
Aneroid at top of Popomanasiu	23.95

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 236.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 205).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1898.

[C.—9046-4.] *Price* 1*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
207	British Honduras	1896
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,
213	St. Helena	,,
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda...	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos	,,
231	Barbados...	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 236.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 205.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Singapore,
2nd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the undermentioned annual departmental report for the year 1897 :—

Report on the Straits Settlements.

I have, &c.,
J. A. SWETTENHAM.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for 1897 amounted to $4,320,207, including land sales, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

	$
Singapore	2,536,428
Penang	1,425,421
Malacca	358,358

There was an increase of $54,144 as compared with the revenue for 1896, and $271,847 as compared with the revenue for 1895.

The principal increases were under the heads of Land Sales ($53,255), Interest ($11,722), and Land Revenue ($10,797).

There are also satisfactory increases under Port and Harbour Dues, Postage, and Reimbursements.

On the other hand, there were decreases of $12,871 in Fees of Office and $12,531 in Stamps. The former is chiefly due to the decrease in the number of cattle imported, on account of cattle disease in the neighbouring countries, the latter to a decrease in death duties. Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of courts also show a decrease of $6,686.

159*—75—7/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1897.

The expenditure for the year was $4,430,603, which shews an increase of $473,513 over 1896, and $648,147 as compared with the expenditure for 1895. There was an increase of $126,974 in military expenditure, the cost of the new emplacements having been paid for during the year. There was a large increase under the head of Special Expenditure—$123,325. This expenditure includes $100,000 voted for the permanent memorial of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and $19,089 in connexion with the celebrations. There were also considerable increases under the following heads :—

	$
Personal Emoluments	93,915
Public Works Department Expenditure ...	65,382
Extraordinary Expenditure	29,362
Interest	16,020
Other charges	14,516

The large increase under the head Personal Emoluments is due to the addition of 10 per cent. to the salaries of the clerical branch of the service, the rice allowance of $1 a month to native subordinates, and the increase to exchange compensation in consequence of the fall in the value of the dollar.

Assets and Liabilities.

2. The net balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1897 was $2,161,913, as compared with $2,328,270 on the same date in 1896. The Colony has no debt.

The financial position of the Colony continues to be very satisfactory. The excise farms have been let for three years at an enhanced rent of $645,000, and it is proposed to carry out a large scheme for the improvement of the harbour of Penang on an estimate of $459,000, and other important works, out of current revenue.

Exchange.

3. There was a marked fall in the sterling value of the dollar, the average value of which was 1/11$\frac{13}{16}$ on demand and for bills at 4 months' sight 1/11$\frac{15}{16}$, as compared with 2/2$\frac{1}{16}$ and 2/2$\frac{3}{16}$, respectively, in 1896.

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was $7,326,693.

Municipalities.

4. The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to $1,273,283, and the expenditure to $1,371,716. Under powers conferred by the Municipal Ordinance, a sum of $89,998 was levied in the districts outside the municipalities. The expenditure on roads and bridges in these districts amounted to $241,083. The Singapore Municipality have taken in hand the important question of the disposal of town sewage, and large sums have also been spent in connection with the filter beds.

LEGISLATION.

5. Twenty-four meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, 18 Ordinances being passed.

Ordinances were passed consolidating and amending the law with regard to the registration of births and deaths, the law relating to lepers, and for the protection of Indian immigrants. The two last named Ordinances have not come into force. Certain provisions of the Indian Immigration Ordinance met with opposition from the planters, and will be dealt with in an amending Ordinance.

Other important Ordinances were passed to provide for the issue of Government paper currency, and to make better provision for the regulation of pilgrim ships.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

6. The land market, as evidenced by the number of deeds registered, shews increased activity, the fees received in Singapore being for deeds, $8,479.70, and for bills of sale, $1,401.25; and in Penang, for deeds, $9,342·50, and for bills of sale, $1,050.50.

PUBLIC WORKS.

7. In Singapore, as in 1895 and 1896, the principal works were the construction of new barracks.

On Blakang Mati Island, the hospital and barracks for non-commissioned officers and married native soldiers were completed.

In Tanglin, two blocks providing twenty married quarters, an infant school, five quarters which are intended for the use of ten single sergeants, and the non-commissioned officers' mess were finished, and five married quarters and schoolmaster's quarters were begun.

At Pearl's Hill, 2 warrant officers' quarters and 6 married staff sergeants' quarters were commenced.

In addition to these works, a sum of $228,096 was handed to the Military Department for constructing the new emplacements for the quick-firing guns.

The only other undertaking of importance in Singapore was the extension of the Master Attendant's office at a cost of $15,000.

In Penang, the only service of importance was the construction of a jetty for the accommodation of local steamers. This work was brought near completion out of the Harbour Improvement vote, and it is expected to be finished early in 1898.

A sum of $9,000 was expended in enlarging the reservoir in Province Wellesley, to admit of Butterworth being supplied with water from Bukit Mertajam.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1897.

Under Roads and Bridges, a vote of $67,350 was taken for the renewal of 4 timber bridges with iron in Province Wellesley.

The abutments of these bridges were erected, and the superstructure of iron is expected to arrive soon from home, so that this much needed improvement will be accomplished early in 1898.

The Perak Railway system is being extended by the Government of the Federated Malay States to Prai in Province Wellesley, and a steam ferry boat service will connect it with Penang, a special jetty being about to be erected at Weld Quay.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

8. During the year under review, 6,031,136 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,928,730 in 1896. The Registration, Insurance, and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all continue to show steady progress. The postal revenue amounted to $215,246, which is an excess of $6,838 over the income of the department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1897 was $198,136, being an increase of $14,695, as compared with the expenditure of the year before. There is an increase on "British postage," due to increased weight of mails and low rate of exchange.

In consequence of very unfavourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to India and Ceylon, there was a large decrease of no less than Rs. 205,807 in the money order business done with those countries. The transactions in sterling amounted to £11,049, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 725,000, and in local currency to $227,640 ; the total business done aggregated only $806,885, against a total of $822,135 in 1896.

SAVINGS BANK.

9. There was a large increase in savings bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was $363,545, an increase of $36,668 as compared with 1896. The deposits amounted to $269,313, and withdrawals to $242,341.

The investments in Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper amounted to $273,391, and amounts placed on fixed deposits at the Chartered Bank to $34,000.

EDUCATION.

10. Two hundred schools were inspected in 1897, and 8,301 pupils were presented for examination.

During the year, a scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the Government European masters was drawn up and has been approved.

Singapore and Penang were both made centres for the Cambridge local examination in December for the first time. The result was, on the whole, an indication that this Colony has still a great deal of work before it in order to attain as good results as shewn by some other Colonies. The Penang Free School gained both the Queen's scholarships.

The total expenditure of the Education Department amounted to $179,769.

POPULATION.

11. The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the census of 1891, is now estimated to be 580,563. During the year 1897 there were registered 12,090 births, of which 6,250 were of male and 5,840 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 21,427, as compared with 24,014 in 1896.

CHINESE AND INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

12. The number of Chinese immigrants was very much below the normal supply, and there was a marked decrease in the number of contracts signed in the Chinese Protectorate. This was partly due to a prosperous year in the provinces of China from which our labour supply is chiefly drawn, and also to the restrictions placed on immigration in consequence of the prevalence of bubonic plague in China. The demand for tin-miners in Selangor having almost ceased no doubt also affected the supply to some extent.

It is satisfactory to record a further increase in the number of both free and statute immigrants from India. The late scarcity in India no doubt had the effect of stimulating emigration to countries such as this Colony and the Malay States, where there is a constant demand for labour. Arrangements have been made for cheap passages for intending immigrants to the Protected States.

TRADE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

13. The figures for the year shew large increases over those for 1896.

There was a decline in the value of the principal articles of export—tin, gambier, and copra—but an improvement is recorded in the pepper trade.

The trade of the Colony with other countries has largely increased. There was an increase in the export of coffee, gambier, hides, and pepper.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. 1897

Merchandise imported from all places outside the Colony amounted to 187½ million dollars, an increase of 11 millions, and exports to 162½ million dollars, an increase of 11 millions.

From all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, an increase of $12,082,000 is seen in the silver value, but a decrease of £564,500 in the gold value, of goods.

To all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, the silver increase of merchandise sent is $11,869,000, the gold value decreasing by £387,500.

Imports shew increased values under food-stuffs (the increase in rice alone being over 6 million dollars), in manufactured textiles, machinery, telegraph materials, and coal, and declines in hardware, cutlery, and cattle.

Exports shew increased values in food-stuffs, gutta, rattans, hides, areca nuts, and pepper, but declines in tin, gambier, and copra.

Imports from the United Kingdom shew an advance of about 25 per cent., or 5 million dollars, chiefly in cotton goods, yarns, telegraph materials, and machinery.

Exports to the United Kingdom declined by about 1 per cent., or $262,000; the decrease was chiefly seen in tin, gambier, and copra.

From British India and Burma there was a decrease in imports of over 4 million dollars, owing to smaller supplies being received of rice and opium, but exports thither increased by 3½ millions. Larger exports of raw silk, areca nuts, and fish account for this. A large quantity of rice also was exported to British India, amounting in value to 1¾ million dollars over and above the value exported in 1896. The success of the experiment of closing the mints in India has favoured exports to that country, while diminishing exports therefrom to places with a silver standard.

The Hongkong and China trade increased by about 1½ per cent. in imports, but decreased by a little over 3 per cent. in exports. There were increased imports of wheat flour, joss sticks and joss paper, and raw silk, but decreased exports of tin, rattans, and pepper.

There was a fair increase in imports from Japan, due to a larger import of coal and matches. Exports thither nearly doubled in value, larger quantities of tanned hides, rice, and gambier, among other articles, having been sent out.

Netherlands Indian imports shew an increase of over two million dollars, and exports an increase of over four million dollars.

The largest increases are in sugar, gutta-percha and other rubbers received, and among the export articles shewing large increases are rice, cotton piece goods, sarongs, and kains.

From the Malay Peninsula, including the Western Siamese States, a decrease of over three million dollars is recorded in imports, but in exports there is a trifling increase.

Tin ore, rice, fish, rattans, areca nuts, and gambier shew increased import values, but a large decrease is found in tin, and a decrease to a smaller extent in pepper.

The Continent of Europe sent larger values in the case of all countries.

Exports to the Continent declined in the case of every country, with the exception of Belgium and Russia, to which places they slightly increased.

From Saigon imports increased by over 4 million dollars. The export value fell slightly. The large increase in imports is due mainly to the growth of the rice trade.

Cotton Goods.—The imports of cotton piece goods increased by nearly a million pieces. Yarns of both kinds also shew increases. Sewing thread shews an increase of $75,000 in its import value, but cotton handkerchiefs, sarongs, slendangs, and kains, as well as blankets, all shew decreases.

Coal.—There were received over 108,396 tons more than in 1896. From the United Kingdom supplies fell by about 3,000 tons, and from Borneo by 15,000, while from Japan they rose by over 40,000 tons. Australian imports rose by over 24,000 tons, and Bengal coal by about 55,000 tons.

Rice.—Imports rose to nearly 457,000 tons, an increase of 27,000 tons, and combined with a heavy rise in price, enormously increased the value of this food-stuff. The largest supplies came from Siam. Rangoon imports declined largely. Supplies from Saigon shew a large increase.

Opium.—Imports decreased by 769 chests. Opium from China declined by 131 chests. Patna opium fell from 525 in 1896 to 275 chests in 1897.

Tapioca.—The total export of all three kinds of tapioca was 39,973 tons, a decrease of 5,385 tons.

Copra.—Exports declined by 9,800 tons.

Sago.—Exports fell from 51,500 tons in 1896 to 44,959 tons in 1897. The decrease was in both flour and pearl sago.

Rattans.—The year's export is the highest on record, exceeding by 492 tons the figures for 1896.

Tin.—Exports largely declined, being 8,446 tons less than in 1896.

CURRENCY.

14. The decision of the Japanese Government to revert to a Gold Standard, which took effect during 1897, led to the recall of the Japanese yen, which had been current in the Colony and in its vicinity since 1872. A very large number of these coins was withdrawn from circulation and sent to Japan.

The coins were replaced by the new British dollar minted in Bombay, of which no less than $15,782,908 were imported into the Colony during 1897 by the banks alone. This new coin is already greatly in request in Siam, and its introduction into the Colony in such large quantities was a great convenience, as it may be doubted whether sufficient Mexican dollars could have been easily obtained to replace the large number of Japanese yen withdrawn.

During the year, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China obtained authority from Her Majesty's Treasury to increase its local note circulation by $1,000,000.

SHIPPING.

15. The total tonnage of the vessels arriving and departing was 12,206,782, as compared with 12,244,383 in 1896. The light dues amounted to $115,887.

Three hundred and fifty-three (353) new vessels of 13,252 tons were built in the Colony during the year.

LIGHT-HOUSES.

16. All the light-houses, launches, buoys, and beacons have been maintained in an efficient condition and periodically inspected.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

17. The public health of the Colony during 1897 has been considerably better than it was during 1896, the number of deaths registered being less by more than 2,500 than it was during that year. The death-rate is still high, averaging about 36·00 per mille for the whole Colony, but this is a great improvement on 1896. The death-rate for 1896 was given as 43·78 per mille, but there is reason to think the population was underestimated in calculating this rate. A new method of calculation has been used this year, and it is on this that the rate of 36·00 per mille is based; were this calculation used for 1896, the rate of mortality would appear as 40·66.

The Colony has been remarkably free from zymotic disease during the year.

The number of patients treated in the Government Hospital was somewhat less than that during 1896, but greater than that of 1895 or any preceding year.

The arrangements described last year as being carried out in relation to the registration of deaths have been continued during 1897 with satisfactory results.

METEOROLOGY.

18. A rainfall of 138·88 inches was recorded in Penang, the greatest fall in one day being 5·76 inches, and in one month (October) 41·17 inches. In Singapore and Malacca the rainfall was above the average. The mean temperature of the Colony was 80·6.

BANKRUPTCY.

19. There were 31 receiving orders and 23 adjudications made in Singapore, and 12 receiving orders and 10 adjudications in Penang, shewing an increase in the number made in the previous year.

Few of the bankruptcies were of any great importance, and there has been a decrease in the amount of liabilities as well as assets as shewn by the bankrupts' statements of affairs. One important failure occurred during the year in Penang.

The revenue and expenditure both shew a small decrease on those of last year.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

20. Seven joint stock companies, with a nominal capital of $1,330,003, were registered during the year.

POLICE AND CRIME.

21. There has been no change of importance during the year in the strength or constitution of the police force of the Colony. The European contingent is still six men under strength. The conduct of the inspectors and of the European contingent has on the whole been good. The police are much hampered by the want of efficient detectives.

There has been a serious falling off in the numbers of the Sikh contingent, but now that the pay has been increased and additional privileges given, it is hoped that a sufficient number of recruits will be induced to join. The Malay contingent has been kept well up to strength in Penang and Malacca, but not so well in Singapore. The conduct of this branch of the force is on the whole improving.

In January there was a strike of jinrikisha coolies in Singapore, which, as some 16,000 men of the coolie class were involved, gave rise to some apprehension, but the strike subsided after a few days without anything worse than inconvenience to a large section of the public.

A good deal of uneasiness was caused in the end of September by the appearance of two placards inciting to murder and riot. The authors of the placards were not discovered. Precautions were taken and no riot whatever took place.

Twenty-two cases of murder and twenty-three of gang-robbery were reported; of the former, three took place on the high seas; of the latter, one was certainly false.

Gambling is increasingly difficult to deal with, and in the existing state of the law the police appear to want power to cope with the forms in which gambling is now carried on.

JUDICIAL.

22. In the Supreme Court on the criminal side there was a large increase in the number of cases at each Settlement, and on the civil side the number of actions commenced showed a considerable increase at Singapore.

In the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, the work at Singapore and Malacca was greater than in the previous year, while it decreased at Penang. The number of convictions again showed a considerable increase, while the number of acquittals was less than last year. This increase in the number of convictions and decrease in the number of acquittals was especially marked at Penang.

INQUESTS.

23. Five hundred and eighty-two inquests were held during the year, as compared with 498 last year. The number in Penang showed an increase of over 50 per cent. In 399 cases the verdict was death from natural causes, accidental, &c. There were 82 suicides.

PRISONS.

24. The daily average of prisoners in the Singapore Prison is less than last year. The worst of the habitual criminals are now banished as their sentences expire.

There is again a marked decrease in the death-rate in the Singapore Prison, but an increase in the rate at Penang Prison.

There was one suicide in Singapore Prison. No escapes from prison took place in any of the Settlements.

C. W. S. KYNNERSLEY,
Acting-Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 12th May 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 241.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 201.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased. either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE. EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

C.—9046-9.] *Price* 2*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	,,
215	Mauritius	,,
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 241.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 201.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR SIR C. C. KNOLLYS to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Trinidad,
10th August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Trinidad and Tobago Blue Book for 1897, and to make the following Annual Report upon the Colony for that year.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

2. The following changes have been made in the Customs duties levied on imports into the Colony :—

(*a*) The admission free of duty of goods imported by Foreign Consuls for the official use of their Consulates.

(*b*) The prohibition of the importation of tobacco extracts.

(*c*) Exemption from duty of packages or coverings of articles imported ; all articles passed by the Collector of Customs as the personal baggage or household effects of passengers ; and all professional apparatus and workmen's tools brought in by passengers for their own use.

(*d*) The substitution of the following tariff for that imposed under Section 3 of Ordinance No. 18 of 1895 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Varnish or polish containing methylated spirits, and admitted as such by the Collector of Customs, the gallon ...	0	1	6
Spirituous preparations admitted by the Collector of Customs as medicinal, the gallon	0	5	0

580*—75—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B) A 2

	£	s.	d.
Liqueurs, cordials and other spirituous preparations (except perfumed spirits) in bottle if entered on the first entry thereof in such a manner as to indicate that the strength is not to be tested, the gallon	0	12	6
Perfumed spirits, the gallon	0	15	0
All other spirits, liqueurs, cordials and spirituous preparations (including naphtha or methylic alcohol purified so as to be potable) not exceeding the strength of proof, the gallon ...	0	10	6
And in addition for every degree of strength above proof, the gallon ...	0	0	1
Wines, sparkling, the gallon	0	6	0
All other wines in bottle, containing less than 42 degrees of proof spirit, the gallon	0	3	3
And for every degree of strength above 42 degrees, the gallon	0	0	3
Wines in wood containing less than the following rates of proof spirit, viz. :—			
23 degrees, the gallon	0	1	3
32 „ „	0	1	9
42 „ „	0	3	3
And an additional duty for every degree of strength above 42 degrees, the gallon	0	0	3

There has been no change in taxes during the year.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

3. The revenue for the year 1897 was £611,434, and the expenditure £622,364. Of this £31,872 was for unusual expenditure on public works.

The following table compares the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1893	549,398	530,348
1894	585,905	537,775
1895	598,884	605,514
1896	618,332	594,462
1897	611,434	622,364

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

	£
4. The Assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1897, were	405,090
The Liabilities, excluding the Public Debt, were	313,170
showing a balance in favour of the Colony of ...	£91,920

in addition to stores in stock the value of which is estimated at £27,595.

PUBLIC DEBT.

5. During 1897, Debentures amounting to £4,020 were paid off, leaving the Public Debt at £916,518, as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. (*a*) Railway Debenture Debt	111,039	0	2½
(*b*) Public Works and Road Extension and Railway Debt (4 per cent. Inscribed Stock)	413,380	4	5
2. Port-of-Spain Water Works Ordinance 3 of 1883...	——		
3. Railway Extension and Public Works Further Loan	392,099	6	7
Total Public Debt outstanding ...	£916,518	11	2½

LEGISLATION.

6. The legislation of the year consisted of 24 Ordinances, the principal of which were those relating to Immigration.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

7. The chief official changes were the arrival in the Colony of, and assumption of the Government by, Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., on the 2nd of June, up to which date the Government had been administered by me. Mr. G. L. Garcia, Q.C., Attorney-General, died on the 19th of October, and on the 13th December Mr. N. Nathan, Q.C., was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Vincent Brown, Q.C., Solicitor-General, acted as Attorney-General during the whole year to the 13th December. Mr. T. A. Thompson succeeded the late Mr. C. F. Monier-Williams in the office of Registrar of the Supreme Court and Marshal.

PENSIONS.

8. The pension list amounted to the total of £14,640, being £533 in excess of that for the preceding year.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

General Population.

9. Estimated population at the end of 1896 ...		246,173
Births registered in 1897	7,927	
Deaths registered in 1897	7,091	
Natural increase		836
Arrivals recorded by the Harbour Master in 1897	21,079	
Departures recorded by the Harbour Master in 1897	15,544	
Increase by immigration		5,535
Estimated population at the end of 1897		252,544

East Indian Population.

10. The estimated number of East Indians at the end of 1896, was		81,973
Registered births during 1897	2,509	
„ deaths „ „	2,563	
Natural decrease		54
		81,919
Immigrants from India	1,860	
Emigrants to India	747	
Increase by immigration		1,113
Total number of East Indians on 31st December, 1897		83,032
Population other than East Indian		169,512
Total		252,544

11. Of the total number of births registered 4,005 were males and 3,922 females. This gives a birth-rate of 31·8 per 1,000 compared with 33·7 and 34·8 for 1896 and 1895 respectively.

12. The illegitimate birth-rate, on the general births, was 59·2, as against 58·1 for each of the two previous years, and on the East Indian births 79·2.

13. The percentage of still births was—

General births	6·9
East Indian	10·7

14. The deaths—3,989 males and 3,102 females—give a death-rate for 1897 of 25·3 per 1,000. One-fourth of the total number of deaths occurred among children of two years of age and under.

14 males and 16 females reached the age of 95 and upwards. 18 of these were centenarians, the birth-place of 8 of whom is registered as Trinidad.

IMMIGRATION.

15. During 1897, 1,165 men, 607 women, 43 boys, 20 girls and 43 infants, making a total of 1,878 souls, embarked at Calcutta for Trinidad. Of these 27 paid their own passages and brought with them, besides jewellery, the sum of £487.

The East Indian population is estimated to have been 83,032 on the 31st of December, 1897, and the number of indentured immigrants on estates was 9,636.

On the 24th of September the return ship left Trinidad for Calcutta taking 442 men, 164 women, 60 boys, 65 girls and 16 infants. The amount deposited by these return immigrants for remittance to India was £7,091.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

16. The following table gives the number of places of worship of each denomination :—

Sect.	No. of Places of Worship.	Accommodation.
Roman Catholic	60	18,544
Anglican	51	10,540
Wesleyan	13	4,230
Presbyterian	8*	2,375
Baptist	16	Not given.

* Also 59 chapels are returned with accommodation for 2,120 persons.

The amount voted under this head was £10,600 and was distributed as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Church of England	3,917	0	0
Roman Catholic Church	6,155	10	0
Wesleyan body	527	10	0
Total	£10,600	0	0

EDUCATION.

17. *Primary.*—The expenditure on elementary education amounted to £33,896, and was incurred under the following heads :—

	£
Government Schools	10,166
Assisted Schools	18,839
Government Training Schools	1,121
Assisted „ „	673
Administration	3,097
Total	£33,896

In addition to the above expenditure on Government Schools, a sum of £1,358 was spent by the Public Works Department in repairs and alterations to school buildings.

The expenditure for 1897 exceeded that for 1896 by the sum of £1,140.

The excess is accounted for by the increase in the number of schools under the control of the Board of Education.

18. The reimbursements to the Revenue amounted to £1,524, made up as follows :—

	£
Contribution from Borough Council of Port-of-Spain.	500
Fees paid by scholars in Government Schools and amount received for the sale of needlework	1,024

19. The cost to the Government of each scholar in average daily attendance was, in Government Schools, £2 7*s.* 9*d.*, and in Assisted Schools, £1 14*s.* 11*d.*

20. The following table gives a summary of the attendance :—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars on Roll.	Average Attendance.
ASSISTED SCHOOLS :			
Roman Catholic	59	7,686	4,844
Church of England	34	5,257	3,319
Presbyterian (Canadian Mission) ...	42	3,584	2,109
Wesleyan	4	788	465
Moravian	1	78	50
Totals, Assisted Schools	140	17,393	10,797
„ Government Schools ...	56	6,558	4,258
Totals, all Schools	196	23,951	15,055

21. *Secondary.*—The two schools for secondary education are the Queen's Royal College which is a Government institution, undenominational and with 91 students ; and the St. Mary's College, which is a private institution, assisted by the Government, Roman Catholic, with 195 students. Four scholarships, each of the annual value of £150 tenable for three years, at some European University, are offered, subject to the rules and regulations governing their grant, to the students of both colleges who attain the highest places in one of the Honour Divisions of the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

22. The figures relating to the imports and exports for 1897 and the four previous years are shown in the following table :—

Year.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Total Value.	Value exclusive of Bullion and Specie.	Total Value.	Value exclusive of Bullion and Specie.
	£	£	£	£
1893	2,270,885	1,987,071	2,320,824	1,941,171
1894	2,152,883	1,869,330	2,000,748	1,726,963
1895	2,276,864	2,040,872	2,065,104	1,791,867
1896	2,463,525	2,188,189	2,165,820	1,896,748
1897	2,161,231	1,992,537	1,994,926	1,823,818

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. 1897.

23. The value and direction of trade during the years 1896 and 1897, was—

Imports.

From	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom	978,565	857,857
British Colonies	241,438	201,779
United States of America ...	458,440	450,664
Venezuela	524,042	462,697
Other Foreign Countries ...	261,040	188,234
Total	2,463,525	2,161,231

Exports.

To	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom	943,888	713,540
British Colonies	40,129	41,346
United States of America ...	669,950	628,264
Venezuela	209,727	254,760
Other Foreign Countries ...	302,126	357,016
Total	2,165,820	1,994,926

24. The class of imports and exports was as follows during 1897 :—

——	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	£	£
Live Animals, Food and Drink	901,941	1,328,502
Raw Material	129,381	241,005
Manufactured Articles ...	961,215	254,311
Coin and Bullion	168,694	171,108
Total	2,161,231	1,994,926

25. The total quantities and values of the more important staples exported during the last five years were—

Year.	Sugar.		Cocoa.		Asphalt.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1893	101,140,361	757,937	19,106,553	535,055	90,203	98,572
1894	104,986,406	598,010	21,608,384	587,564	99,192	112,401
1895	122,353,755	596,415	29,458,813	620,634	86,148	97,318
1896	120,562,942	700,347	23,481,848	452,141	96,385	106,920
1897	110,026,245	537,107	23,840,665	532,123	124,672	138,801

26. The directions in which the staples of the Island were exported and their values were as follows :—

—	United Kingdom.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar	272,212	—	259,421	5,474	537,107
Molasses	1,823	150	826	14,192	16,991
Rum	5,932	—	—	149	6,081
Cocoa	154,956	198,091	147,165	31,911	532,123
Coconuts... ...	20,275	4	3,012	1,199	24,490
Asphalt	8,304	3,360	95,736	31,401	138,801
Bitters	10,510	530	17,183	11,883	40,106
Total ...	474,012	202,135	523,343	96,209	1,295,699

SHIPPING.

27. During 1897, 2,916 vessels, with a total tonnage of 673,323 entered, and 2,908, with a total tonnage of 667,673 cleared.

The following tables show the countries from which vessels arrived, and to which they departed :—

Entered.

From	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	39	19,199	85	127,215	124	146,414
United States of America.	93	45,805	30	39,937	123	85,742
British North America	29	3,220	10	11,752	39	14,972
British West Indies and British Guiana.	552	33,966	139	170,269	691	204,235
Venezuela	1,677	16,943	142	126,131	1,819	143,074
Other countries ...	72	20,821	48	58,065	120	78,886
Total	2,462	139,954	454	533,369	2,916	673,323

Cleared.

To	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	56	22,630	17	22,981	73	45,611
United States of America.	118	60,139	46	59,875	164	120,014
British North America	9	1,254	10	11,204	19	12,458
British West Indies and British Guiana.	536	23,203	161	191,026	697	214,229
French West Indies...	27	4,392	21	27,247	48	31,639
Venezuela	1,677	16,120	184	207,533	1,861	223,653
Other countries ...	38	10,056	8	10,013	46	20,069
Total	2,461	137,794	447	529,879	2,908	667,673

28. The nationality of the vessels which entered is shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	596	38,573	258	361,208	854	399,781
French	5	679	52	64,301	57	64,980
United States ...	105	52,240	36	19,569	141	71,809
Venezuela	1,654	14,089	60	32,911	1,714	47,000
Dutch...	18	1,435	39	43,587	57	45,022
Norwegian	31	12,915	2	1,793	33	14,708
Other countries ...	53	20,023	7	10,000	60	30,023
Total	2,462	139,954	454	533,369	2,916	673,323

AGRICULTURE.

29. The acreage under cultivation is estimated at 200,000 acres, and is made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Sugar cane	57,000
Cocoa	98,000
Coffee	1,500
Coconuts	14,000
Provisions	13,500
Pastures	10,000
Other products	6,000

30. The nature of the produce grown or manufactured in the Colony in 1897, and the quantity of each product was—

Sugar	54,933 tons (crop of 1897)
Molasses	680,761 gallons.
Rum, (home consumption)	246,814 (proof gallons.)
„ (exported) ...	99,533 „ „
Cocoa	23,840,665 lbs.
Coconuts	11,649,138 in number.
Asphalt	124,672 tons.

The coffee grown in the Colony is chiefly used for home consumption, and the price is governed by the supply.

CROWN LANDS.

31. 4,690 acres of Crown Land were sold during 1897, realizing the sum of £5,474. This brings the total number of acres alienated to 442,924
and leaves ungranted 677,076

Total acreage of the Colony 1,120,000

Of 432 grants issued 2 were for 159 and 103 acres respectively. 67 village lots were sold. The upset price of Crown Land is £1 an acre and 10*s.* per acre to cover all fees and cost of survey.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

32. The total number of persons committed in 1897 was 4,877, against 4,583 in 1896, showing an increase of 294.

Of the above numbers there were committed for the purposes of—

	During 1897.	During 1896.
Penal imprisonment	3,907	3,482
For debt	23	24
For safe custody till trial, or for want of security ...	947	1,077
Total	4,877	4,583

Of the number committed during 1897, 4,170 were men, 683 women and 24 juveniles.

33. The daily average at the three prisons of the Colony was—

	In Prison.	On Sick List.
At the Royal Gaol	228	14
At Carrera's Depôt	171	11
At Female Prison...	41	—
Total	440	25

There were 18 deaths at the Royal Gaol, 3 of which were by judicial execution and 2 by suicide.

There were 27 deaths at Carrera's and 1 at the female prison.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
34. The total expenditure for prisons was ...	8,817	1	7½
Estimated value of prisoners' labour exclusive of that in service of prison ...	3,655	18	3½
Daily gross cost of each prisoner ...		1	1

The following is a comparison of expenditure and average number of prisoners for the last 5 years :—

Year.	Average number of Prisoners.		Expenditure.		
	Males.	Females.	£	s.	d.
1892	445	41	10,144	14	10½
1893	499	44	10,520	7	0
1894	509	50	10,517	10	0
1895	463	45	9,398	16	11½
1896	424	46	9,220	17	1
Average for 5 years ...	468	45	9,960	9	2¼
1897	399	41	8,817	1	7½
Below the average by...	69	4	1,143	7	6¾

Classified according to nationalities, the most striking figures are—

India ...	2,040	...	being 430	more than 1896.
Trinidad ...	802	...	„ 32	„
Venezuela	32	...	„ 12	„
Barbados ...	382	...	„ 10	less than 1896.
St. Vincent	110	...	„ 16	„
Grenada ...	89	...	„ 2	more than 1896.
Tobago ...	79	...	„ 2	less than 1896.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

35. The number of offences reported to the police was 17,484 against 19,279 during the year 1896. 20,725 persons were apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates, of whom 13,090 were summarily convicted, and 112 committed for trial at the sessions. Of the latter 72 were convicted.

The following table compares the state of crime during the last four years :—

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Offences	15,779	18,238	19,279	17,484
Apprehensions	20,468	21,037	22,820	20,725
Convictions by the Magistrate	12,262	12,892	13,978	13,090
In Superior Courts	115	106	75	72

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

36. A return showing the hospitals of the Colony with the number of inmates and the cost of upkeep, exclusive of medical staff, is subjoined :—

Institutions.	Daily Average No. of Diets Issued.	Cost exclusive of Medical Staff.
		£ s. d.
Colonial Hospital	616	13,608 12 11
San Fernando Hospital	227	5,863 17 9
St. Joseph District Hospital	34	765 6 5½
Tacarigua Hospital	31	750 8 3
Arima Hospital	24	675 2 1½
Chaguanas Hospital	19	622 4 4
Couva Hospital	34	754 13 3
Princes Town Hospital	27	587 7 6
Cedros Hospital...	18	448 19 10
Total	1,030	23,076 12 5

37.—*Asylums.*

Institutions.	Daily Average No. of Diets.	Cost exclusive of Medical Staff.
		£ s. d.
Lunatic Asylum	441	7,701 9 6¼
Leper Asylum	241	4,679 10 1½
House of Refuge	229	3,912 14 5½
San Fernando Alms-House	14	238 6 8½
Total	925	17,532 0 9¾

The San Fernando Alms-House was closed on the 2nd of October, and the patients transferred to the San Fernando Hospital.

38. The total expenditure of the medical department for 1897 was as follows :—

Institutions.	Salaries, &c.			Other Charges.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Medical Staff ...	17,974	2	11½	—			17,974	2	11½
Clerical and Store Staff.	1,421	19	1½	—			1,421	19	1½
HOSPITALS.									
Colonial Hospital ...	3,741	10	7	9,898	11	7	13,640	2	2
San Fernando Hospital.	1,682	12	0	4,428	1	2½	6,110	13	2½
St. Joseph District Hospital.	144	1	8	620	19	5½	765	1	1½
Tacarigua District Hospital.	130	15	6	638	16	0	769	11	6
Arima District Hospital.	182	5	0	484	11	4	666	16	4
Chaguanas District Hospital.	164	1	8	446	15	0½	610	16	8½
Couva District Hospital.	175	15	0	583	4	6½	758	19	6½
Princes Town District Hospital.	154	1	8	423	11	8½	577	13	4½
Cedros District Hospital.	100	15	0	344	17	0	445	12	0
Mayaro (Temporary) District Hospital.	22	10	0	83	1	0	105	11	0
ASYLUMS.									
Lunatic Asylum ...	2,238	8	6½	5,517	16	7½	7,756	5	2
Leper „ ...	1,155	12	7	3,512	3	8½	4,667	16	3½
House of Refuge ...	949	3	4	2,979	4	7½	3,928	7	11½
Moruga Dispensary	110	0	0	39	18	10½	149	18	10½
Medical Expenses and for Paupers.	—			1,049	18	3½	1,049	18	3½
Miscellaneous Sanitary Expenses, Public Health.	1,593	0	0	105	15	7	1,698	15	7
Quarantine	255	0	0	184	17	5½	439	17	5½
Vaccination	—			1,454	12	7	1,454	12	7
Travelling Expenses Officers on special duty.	—			93	10	3	93	10	3
Office Contingencies	—			42	2	7½	42	2	7½
Yaws Dispensaries ...	186	1	8	281	3	7½	467	5	3½
Total	£32,381	16	3½	£33,213	13	1½	£65,595	9	5

Hospitals.

39. The admissions, discharges, and deaths of patients during the year 1897, at the Colonial Hospital, San Fernando and District Hospitals were as follows :—

Total number remaining in hospitals on 31st December, 1896		1,038
Total number admitted during the year ended 31st December, 1897		16,132
Total number treated during 1897... ...		17,170
Number discharged during the year ended 31st December, 1897 ...	14,518	
Number died	1,807	
		16,325
Number remaining in hospitals on 31st December, 1897		845
Daily average number in hospitals on 31st December, 1897		1,006
Percentage of deaths on number treated during 1897		10·53

40. The following is an abstract of diseases treated in the various hospitals during 1897 :—

Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
I.—GENERAL DISEASES.		
SPECIFIC :		
(*a*) Febrile Group	3,406	197
(*b*) Dependent on external agents other than Morbid Poison.	378	34
(*c*) Developmental Diseases	617	157
(*d*) Not classified	2,703	462
II.—LOCAL DISEASES.		
1. Nervous System	372	89
2. Eye	301	—
3. Ear	63	1
4. Nose	30	1
5. Circulatory System	97	61
6. Respiratory „	673	121

Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
II.—LOCAL DISEASES—*cont.*		
7. Digestive System	1,609	518
8. Lymphatic „	61	2
9. Thyroid Body	—	—
10. Urinary System	198	92
11. Generative System	562	17
(*a*) Affections connected with Pregnancy	261	4
(*b*) Affections connected with Parturition	10	1
(*c*) Affections consequent on Parturition...	4	3
(*d*) Diseases of the Female Breast ...	11	—
12. Organs of Locomotion	106	1
13. Connective Tissue	313	2
14. Skin	1,138	4
Poisons	22	2
Injuries	796	38
No Appreciable Disease	787	—
Total	14,518	1,807

41. The most noticeable diseases in the above table are—

Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
Whooping Cough	52	8
Influenza	39	—
Enteric Fever	18	12
Typho-malarial fever	17	10
Malarial Fever :		
Intermittent Fever...	1,520	10
Remittent	925	102
Malarial cachexia	76	5

Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
Rheumatism	437	5
Phthisis Pulmonalis	192	17
Anæmia	1,696	181
Bronchitis	439	36
Asthma	89	6
Pneumonia	60	60
Pleurisy	59	10
Dysentery	276	88
Diarrhœa	512	374

42. The following are the birth-places of the patients admitted to the hospitals :—

Birth-place.	Number.
India	4,943
Trinidad	4,940
Barbados	2,522
Windward Islands	1,492
Leeward Islands	516
Tobago	409
Venezuela	185
Various	1,125
Total	16,132

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

43. The number remaining on 31st December, 1896, was 407
„ „ admitted during 1897 ... 157
564
„ „ discharged 47
„ „ died 49
96
„ „ remaining on 31st December, 1897 468

The average number resident during the year was 439·73. Besides the lunatics resident in the Asylum there is a lunatic

ward and an idiot ward at the House of Refuge, containing 49 patients.

The number of cases admitted was above the average, the increase being chiefly on the female side.

The death-rate was smaller than in the previous year, but the Medical Superintendent reports that there was much sickness throughout the year, cases of fever being very prevalent.

44. The nationality of the patients admitted was—

Birth-place.	Number.
Barbados	26
India	37
Trinidad	56
Various	38
Total	157

LEPER ASYLUM.

45. Number remaining in Asylum on 31st December, 1896 218
Number admitted during 1897 52

Total number under treatment 270
Discharges in 1897 14
Deaths in 1897 ... ... 23 37

Number remaining in Asylum on 31st December, 1897 233

Death-rate 8

The number of admissions was about the average for past years.

During the year important improvements to the Asylum were in course of progress, the old building being re-roofed, and new floors and galleries built.

HOUSE OF REFUGE.

46. The number remaining on the 31st December, 1896, was 184
Admitted during 1897 79

263

Number discharged during 1897 36
„ died ... „ „ 56 92

Number remaining on 31st December, 1897 ... 171

The average age of those who died at the House of Refuge was, males 89·3, and females 69·9.

YAWS.

47. The Dispensaries for the treatment of Yaws cases and the districts in which they are situated are—

District.	Dispensary where situated.
Port-of-Spain...	Colonial Hospital.
San Fernando...	San Fernando Hospital.
Diego Martin	
Santa Cruz	
St. Joseph	District Hospital.
Tacarigua	„ „
Arima	Garden Estate. District Hospital. D'Abadie. Cunapo. Tumpuna.
Mayaro	
Toco	Matelot. Grande Rivière. Matura. Toco.
Chaguanas	District Hospital.
Couva	Carapichaima. Exchange Village.
Pointe-à-Pierre	Claxton's Bay.
Gran Couva	D. M. Officer's Residence. Preysal Village.
Guaracara	D. M. Officer's Residence. Whitelands.
North Naparima	
South „	Picton Estate.
Savana Grande	
Oropuche	Siparia.
Indian Walk	D. M. Officer's Residence.
Cedros...	District Hospital.
Bocas	

The total number of cases remaining on 31st December, 1896, was	389
The number of cases treated during 1897, was...	1,898
" " " cured " " ...	353
" " " remaining on 31st December, 1897	350
" " " missing was	114

The total expenditure for the year under this head was £467 5*s.* 3½*d*, made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Medicines	221	15	4
Rent, Freight, &c.	59	8	3½
Dispensers, Attendants, &c.	186	1	8
	£467	5	3½

This disease continues to be prevalent in certain districts, but the dispensary system has certainly checked its increase.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

48. The general health of the Colony during 1897 was satisfactory. Mild epidemics of influenza and whooping cough prevailed for some months.

METEOROLOGICAL.

49. The meteorological results for 1897, taken at the Royal Botanic Gardens, show that the month of May was the hottest in the year, the temperature being recorded at 91·0. The lowest temperature was 67·6 in February. The mean annual temperature was 79·13.

The total rainfall for the year was 77·68 inches. Most rain fell in July, the gauge registering 13·88 inches.

The mean daily height of the barometer, reduced readings, was 29·962 inches.

SAVINGS BANK.

50. There are 10 Government Savings Banks open in the Colony, viz :—

Port-of-Spain with	5,559	Depositors.
San Fernando "	2,336	"
Arima "	899	"
St. Joseph "	272	"
Couva "	605	"
Tortuga "	274	"
Princes Town "	500	"
Cedros "	173	"
Mayaro "	218	"
Chaguanas "	100	"
Total	10,936	

Of this number, 4,379 were East Indians, with a total amount to credit of £85,761.

	£
The balance in deposit on the 1st January, 1897, was	229,043
The deposits during the year, including interest added on 1st January, 1897, were	180,826
	£409,869
Withdrawals during 1897	177,929
Leaving as due to depositors	£231,940

Of this amount, £218,117 is invested in Colonial Inscribed Stock and English Funds, the remainder being cash in hand to meet current transactions.

TOBAGO.

51. I annex the report of the Commissioner of Tobago (the Hon. W. Low) on the portion of this Blue Book relating to that Island.

I have &c.,

C. C. KNOLLYS,

Acting Governor.

REPORT ON THE TOBAGO BLUE BOOK.

I have the honour to forward the Tobago Blue Book Returns and to report to His Excellency thereon.

At the close of 1897 there was in the Treasury Chest £1,325 0*s.* 4*d.* The total revenue during the year was £8,107 2*s.* 7*d.*, or £297 17*s.* 5*d.* less than the estimate. The expenditure was £8,386 14*s.* 1*d.*, or £164 6*s.* 3*d.* more than the estimate, thus leaving the Island £462 3*s.* 8*d.* to the bad. In addition to this must be noted the fact that of the sum of £4,500 raised by the Crown Agents for loan purposes and credited to Tobago in their current account, only £4,032 6*s.* 2*d.* had been actually expended on roads and buildings to 31st December.

Assets and Liabilities.

The balance sheet for 1897 shows an excess of liabilities of £9,203 3*s.* 10*d.* The Assets at 31st December were £2,621 4*s.* 4*d.* as against liabilities amounting to a total of £11,824 8*s.* 2*d.* The sum of £4,500 raised by the Crown Agents during 1897 on account of the loan was carried to credit of Tobago to adjust their temporary advances. This sum has been included in the balance sheet. The whole of the amount of £4,500 had not been expended to 31st December as is shown under the head of revenue and expenditure.

Legislation.

During the year six regulations were passed by the Financial Board. None of them were of a character demanding special report.

Civil Establishment.

The Commissioner was absent on leave for six months, and Mr. S. W. Knaggs, 1st Clerk in the office of the Colonial Secretary of Trinidad, acted during Mr. Low's absence.

Imports.

The total imports appear to be £11,656 12*s.* 1*d.* This shows a decrease in the imports of £2,276, as compared with the amount in 1896.

EXPORTS.

The exports only amount to £4,968 5*s.* 4*d.*, and if from this be taken £911 4*s.* 4*d.* "specie" the actual exports of "produce" of the Island would only be £4,057 1*s.*, or less than half of the previous year's exports; but £14,433 9*s.* 3*d.* which represents the trade between Tobago and Trinidad during 1897 must be added to the first-mentioned figures. These figures require no comment to show the effect on the Island of the collapse of the sugar industry.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population at close of 1897 was 20,785 or an increase of 463 over the figures of 1896. This increase may be taken as a further tribute not only to the healthiness of the Island but to the facilities for easy living here.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

In 1897, 507 cases were reported. Of these 112 were for assaults and 47 for prædial larceny with 81 and 32 convictions respectively. There was a total of 376 convictions. The offences against the person were of a trifling nature. Five persons were indicted for this offence but only one was convicted by the Supreme Court. Prædial larceny—*i.e.* larceny principally of coconuts—is, as in most West Indian Islands, prevalent. There is no serious crime in the Island. "Other Offences" principally represents cases against owners of animals, &c., who have neglected to obtain licenses at the Treasury within the specified time.

CROWN LANDS.

In addition to the other difficulties the Island is now struggling against, the sale of Crown Lands is being retarded by having to compete against the abandoned sugar estates. These lands are being sold at 8*s.* to 10*s.* per acre plus survey fees. The owners of the estates are also only too glad to let the peasants have what land they require for provision grounds; and as human nature is the same everywhere the negro, whose wants are very small, cultivates part of an abandoned cane field with a sufficiency of vegetables for his immediate wants, and when this piece is exhausted he moves on to another spot. This system saves him the trouble of felling forest trees, and as most of the negroes are devoid of ambition, the consideration that a lot of the Crown Lands would in time become their own property, does not exercise an important influence.

LOAN.

Expenditure on roads is being conducted on the principle of reconstructing the worst portions of the principal roads and

bye-ways. Thus every road receives a proportionate amount of attention: none are now really bad, many are really good, while some require very little repairs.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the year 1897 Tobago maintained its well deserved reputation for being one of the healthiest of Her Majesty's West Indian Colonies. It is to be regretted that the well-to-do of Trinidad who can afford short absences from work do not resort to Tobago for rest and enjoyment of the pure air of this Island, and thus help to advertise the advantages of the poorer partner. Tobago is virtually even now a part of Trinidad; yet the richer Trinidadians prefer going further away. Were some effort made by the influential Trinidadians to bring to notice the salubrity of an Island within sight of theirs much good would result, not only to the people themselves but to the mutual friendly understanding which should exist between the two places.

Sugar is dead. Cocoa is being slowly planted in small quantities, but a judicious and liberal expenditure of capital is necessary to restore the Island to some degree of prosperity.

WM. LOW,

Commissioner.

23rd March, 1898.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1, 2, & 3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 272

TRINIDAD.

REPORT FOR 1898

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 241.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.; and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, and
90, West Nile Street, Glasgow; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., Limited, 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1899.

[C. 9498–6.] *Price* 3*d*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
243	Malta	1897
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia	,,
268	Fiji	,,
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
270	Malta	,,
271	Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 272.

TRINIDAD.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 241.)

ACTING GOVERNOR KNOLLYS to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
31st July 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Trinidad Blue Book for the year 1898 with my Report thereon. The Tobago returns are not yet ready, so I would not keep back the Trinidad Blue Book for them. Next year there will be no separate returns for Tobago, as all the returns will be for Trinidad and Tobago.

I have, &c.,

C. C. KNOLLYS.

3586*—75—8/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

TRINIDAD, 1898.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

A.—General Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
1. The revenue for 1898 was	615,372
The expenditure for 1898 was	640,952
The balance on 31st December, 1898 was ...	64,326

The heads of Revenue and Expenditure, compared with those of 1898, will be found in Appendices A. and B.

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years was :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	585,905	537,775
1895	598,884	605,514
1896	618,332	594,462
1897	611,434	622,364
1898	615,372	640,952

3. The revenue shows a steady increase year by year, such as would be expected as a result from the increased population, except in the year 1896, the exceptional increase being accounted for by the fact that in that year the shops and stores which had been burnt in the great fire of 1894 were completed and re-stocked, thereby abnormally swelling the Customs receipts.

4. The increase in the expenditure, also, is due to the progress of the Island. The chief increases, comparing the first with the last of the five years are under the following heads :—

	£
Charges on account of Public Debt—increase...	9,555
Post Office and Subsidies „ ...	4,753
Medical and Poor Relief „ ...	5,286
Education „ ...	8,597
Government Railway „ ...	26,942
Public Works and Roads „ ...	49,333

Schemes have been elaborated by which the expenditure for medical and education may be reduced.

5. The increase in population has been from 219,000 at the end of 1893 to 260,000 at the end of 1898, or 18·8 per cent. during the five years. The increase in revenue during the same period has been five per cent., and in expenditure 19 per cent. A variation in the rates of increase between revenue and expenditure might be expected from the nature of the immigration, the immigrants being almost entirely composed of the working classes, and many of them practically paupers. These, of course, spend little money, while they materially increase the cost of education, hospitals, and poor relief. The increase in expenditure, however, has chiefly occurred under the heads of Public Debt, Railways, and Public Works. The railways extensions and loans for various large works account for the first two, while the third is explained by the economy in repairs and necessary works which prevailed during the years 1891–94, necessitating increased expenditure later. The average expenditure on Public Works, including roads, during the years mentioned was £73,823, while during the three previous years the average had been £86,543, and during the years 1896–98, £116,488. The Government buildings are now in good repair, and most of the existing roads are in good, and the rest in fair order. Any surplus revenue, therefore, that can be spared will be available for the extension of roads and for the erection of certain public buildings which are still needed. But the current revenue and recurrent expenditure are nearly equal; every mile of new road opened necessitates an increase in the annual cost of upkeep, and the cash balance to the credit of the Colony, which had been accumulated during the years 1892–96 and amounted at the end of the latter year to £106,074, is now being spent in such remunerative works as the supply of water to country-towns and villages. As, therefore, there is no immediate intention of raising further loans, it is absolutely necessary to provide for an increase of revenue if the present prosperity of the Island is to continue and its further development to be encouraged. If the taxation per head in Trinidad and England be compared, it will be seen that there will be no hardship in a moderate increase. The taxation per head in England is £2 10*s.* 6*d.*, besides local rates of between 20 per cent. and 43 per cent. on assessed rentals, while the taxation per head in Trinidad is £1 14*s.* 0½*d.*, and the local rates 7½ per cent. on assessed rentals. The taxation per head in Trinidad in 1882 was £1 17*s.* 10½*d.*, since which time it has gradually fallen to its present rate. It is proposed that the new tax shall take the form of a stamp duty, which it is estimated will produce between £10,000 and £20,000 per annum, the whole of which will be available for improvements. This would increase the taxation by about 1*s.* per head.

B.—Important Changes in Taxation.

6. There were no changes in taxation during 1898.

C.—Assets and Liabilities.

7. The assets of the Colony were on 31st December 1898 .—

	£	
Cash	39,172	
Investments in English and Colonial Securities	313,965	
Advances	50,408	
	———	403,545

The liabilities of the Colony were :—

	£	
Balance due sinking funds on loans...	133	
Deposits due sundry persons ...	300,230	
Suspense Accounts	8,281	
Advances	30,000	
Sundry debts	574	
	———	339,218
Giving a balance in favour of the Colony		£64,327

D.—Public Debt.

8. The Public Debt of Trinidad amounts to £911,211. The debt is a first charge on the general revenue, the payment on account of interest and sinking fund amounting in 1898 to £47,657. This debt will shortly be increased by about £200,000 to complete works now under construction.

The proceeds of the whole of this debt, with the exception of about £175,000, have been spent on directly remunerative works, such as railways, and harbour, sewerage, and water works.

The receipts from railways more than cover working expenses, and had the lines belonged to a company a dividend of £2 19*s.* 6*d.* per cent. would have been declared for the year 1898. The cost of the harbour works is covered by harbour improvement dues levied on the tonnage landed and shipped, while that of the sewerage and water works is, or will be when they are completed, covered by special rates. The £175,000 spent on roads and public buildings is the only part of the loan which is not directly remunerative.

E.—Currency.

9. The currency of Trinidad consists of British bronze, silver, and gold coins, and a note issue by the Colonial Bank. Though the currency is based on a gold standard, and twenty shillings are worth a pound, there is no limitation to the legal tender of silver. Hence, in obedience to the laws of exchange, gold is practically non-existent. Formerly, the note issue of the Colonial Bank amounted to between £120,000 and £140,000, but by their new charter the bank is limited to a note issue of £500,000 for the whole of the West Indies, of which £100,000 is apportioned to Trinidad. This has proved insufficient, and a recent famine of the larger currency has hampered trade, especially with Venezuela, where foreign silver is contraband.

F.—Municipal Revenues, &c.

10. Comparative statements of revenue and expenditure of the boroughs of Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, and Arima will be found in Appendix C. These show that the average revenue and expenditure for the past five years of Port-of-Spain were £19,900 and £20,636 respectively, of San Fernando £5,424 and £5,359 respectively, and of Arima £1,360 and £1,304 respectively. The local rates on the annual rental were five per cent. for Port-of-Spain and Arima, and seven per cent. for San Fernando. The debts are secured on the rates and are—Port-of-Spain, £37,800, San Fernando, £5,700, Arima nil.

The Borough Council of Port-of-Spain was, however, abolished in January last and the care of the Municipality, with extended boundaries, entrusted to four commissioners, the chairman being a Government official. The rates have been increased from five per cent. to 7½ per cent., and this, with a more careful assessment and the extension of the boundaries, has increased the income from rates from £8,026 to £13,500 per annum.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—Imports and Exports.

11. The values of the chief articles imported compared with those of the previous year will be found in Appendix D., and of articles exported in Appendix E. The falling off in the amount of asphalt exported in 1898 is accounted for by an unusual activity displayed during the previous year in view of an impending alteration in the tariff of the United States.

12. The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are given in Appendix F.

13. The total values of the imports from and exports to each country in the years 1896, 1897, and 1898 are given in Appendices G. and H.

14. The class of imports and exports for the years 1897 and 1898, the total quantities and values of the more important staples exported during the last five years, and the directions in which the staples of the Colony were exported, with their values, are given in Appendix I.

15. The following tables of imports from and exports to Great Britain and the United States are instructive. Bullion and transhipments are deducted :—

——	1878.	1888.	1898.
Imports from—	£	£	£
Great Britain...	558,290	754,348	706,509
United States	341,560	349,863	453,609
Exports to—			
Great Britain...	930,845	727,898	425,656
United States...	168,803	665,342	744,512

Compared with 1897 there was a diminution of £45,000 in imports from Great Britain, and an increase of £40,000 in those from the United States.

16. The trade with Venezuela is of great importance to Trinidad, and shows healthy signs of reviving. The imports from Venezuela have not varied very greatly, but the following table, giving the exports to Venezuela for the three years immediately preceding the imposition of the 30 per cent. differential duty and the last three years, speaks for itself.

Exports to Venezuela.

Year.	Value. £
1879	218,983
1880	214,671
1881	252,686
1896	93,097
1897	69,318
1898	81,031

The following are some of the items which show a falling off :—

—	1881.	1898
	£	£
Leather manufactures	2,619	226
Lumber	1,830	286
Sugar	5,760	1,104
Vegetables	6,900	1,972
Machinery	5,400	—
Hardware	34,503	1,324
Textiles	139,200	36,152

The loss on the two last items amounts to roughly a third of the whole trade of the Colony in these branches, from which fact some idea may be formed of the importance of the tax in question.

B.—Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

17. There are no mines in Trinidad, and the manufactories, with the exception of sugar and angostura bitters, are small and unimportant. Bitters to the value of £33,991 was exported from one factory. There are several magnificent sugar factories in the Island fitted with the most modern and improved appliances.

C.—Agricultural Interests.

18. The nature of the produce grown or manufactured in the Colony in 1898 and the quantity of each was :—

Sugar	56,704	tons.
Molasses exported	660,535	gallons.
Rum, home consumption ...	270,000	proof gallons.
„ exported	172,000	„
Cocoa	24,340,960	lbs.
Coconuts	12,240,306	in number.
Asphalt	100,208	tons.
Bitters	40,000	gallons.

Sugar.

19. The most useful method of treating the agricultural interests of the Colony will be to deal with them as they are at the present time (July 1899). The sugar crop of the Island just past can be fairly described as a good one. The output will reach 60,000 tons. The weather has been favourable for cultivation and reaping, and consequently the cost of production has been low, and as the markets have been better than for some years past most estates will have made a fair profit.

Cost of Production excluding Interest.

20. The average cost of production for the crops of 1898 and 1899 was £9 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton. The net proceeds of 1898 and 1899 were £11 4*s.* 4*d.*, showing a profit per ton of £1 16*s.* 10*d.* About 50 per cent. of the crop of the Island was manufactured in well equipped factories with the most modern machinery. The above shows a fair margin for interest on capital invested, which would lead one to suppose that the sugar industry of the Island is in a flourishing condition, and that owners could find a ready market for estates if they desired to sell them. This is not the case, and estates representing 40 per cent. of the total output are in a precarious condition.

21. This state of things has been brought about by the losses between the years 1883 and 1896, which were usually charged against capital account. About the year 1890 it became apparent that only modern well equipped factories could produce sugar below market price, and owners of estates had to decide whether they would abandon, or invest further capital in improved machinery, &c., and form central factories. The investments in most cases were already so large that a total loss could not be faced. Hence, while in isolated cases estates were abandoned, others were improved and enlarged. The result is that many estates are over capitalized, the interest on capital in some cases amounting to £1 15*s.* per ton of sugar produced. Under these circumstances those most interested cannot be expected to invest further capital in improvements, although it has been clearly demonstrated that some of the best equipped estates can produce sugar at a cost of £8 10*s.* per ton; hence outside capitalists must be approached to put the industry on a sound basis. Many capitalists of late have enquired into the business to be done, but all have come to the same conclusion, viz.: bounties cause such uncertainty in the market, that until bounties are abolished or countervailed, investments in sugar estates in Trinidad are not safe.

22. Prospects for next year's markets are favourable. Although beet sowings are higher than last year, last year's "world-

production" was 350,000 tons less than consumption, and by the time next crop is reaped old stocks will be reduced by 500,000 tons, and the increased beet crop is not likely to make this up.

23. The stimulus given to the beet sugar industry in the United States by the present protective tariff has been checked by the acquisition of Cuba and the Philippines, both sugar-producing countries, but, owing to scarcity of labour and stock in the former, and the unsettled state of the latter, no increase of production is expected next year.

24. The ultimate fate of the sugar industry in Trinidad will depend almost altogether on the measures taken by the Imperial Government to abolish or counteract the bounties given by foreign powers.

25. It is probable that five years hence Louisiana, Hawaii, Cuba, and the Philippines will be able to supply the consumption of the United States. The West Indies will then be driven to compete with bounty-fed sugar in England. Capital is the first necessity to reduce the cost of production, but much could still be done with an abundant supply of labour.

26. Sales of Crown lands have increased enormously during the last two years, and are still increasing, especially in the new districts opened up by the railway extensions. This expansion necessitates labour, which must come from the already populated districts where the sugar estates are situated.

27. Of late years a new form of the sugar industry in the shape of cane farming has sprung up. This is specially suited to the temperament of the peasants of this country, who like to be independent and to work when they like and idle when they like. It is estimated that the total weight of canes supplied by about 5,000 cane farmers during the last crop was 90,000 tons, representing 6,000 acres. Omitting one or two whole estates which are farmed, the weight of canes sold by individuals varied from 10 cwt. to 600 tons, and the average price given was 7*s.* 8*d.* per ton. About 12 tons of canes will give one ton of sugar. Two factories alone bought 32,720 tons of canes.

28. The prospects of the sugar industry at the present time are more hopeful than they were three years ago, and well managed and equipped properties, such as those which now turn out fifty per cent. of the total output, have no difficulty in making fair profits.

Cocoa.

29. The area of land under cultivation of cocoa is estimated to be 103,000 acres, which in the year 1898 gave a crop of 24,340,306 lbs. This will be considerably exceeded in 1899.

Cocoa is exported in bags averaging 165 lbs. each. The cost of cultivation varies according to accessibility and nature of the land, and the maturity of the estate. The trees bear but little when young, and increase in bearing until they are 14 years old, and continue in full bearing until about eighty years old. The cost thus varies from 33 shillings to 60 shillings per bag ; but 40 shillings may be taken as an average for a fairly matured estate. The average price obtained last year was 80 shillings per bag, so 40 shillings may be taken as the average profit per bag. The value of an estate to produce 600 bags is about $60,000 or £12,500. Calculated as above this would give an annual profit of £1,200, or 10 per cent. on the capital invested ; but many well matured estates, making a good quality of cocoa, realized last year as much as 14 per cent., and some even more. There is a good opening for the investment of capital in the establishment of combined rubber and cocoa estates.

Rubber.

30. The cultivation of rubber-producing trees is in its infancy, but there is every prospect of this industry being a paying one.

C.—Botanical Stations.

31. The Botanical Station has been doing good work in Trinidad during the year. 4,866 letters were registered outward, and 5 bulletins were published, one being a special issue on rubber. 31,188 plants and 52 packets of seeds as well as 12,398 loose seeds were distributed. Much assistance was given to the establishment of rubber plantations, seeds of the Castilloa rubber were readily sold by auction at the rate of 30*s.* per thousand, while plants a year old were sold for seven cents each and seedlings in boxes for 4*s.* per hundred. A subsidiary station is in course of establishment in Tobago, which will be supported by an Imperial grant ; the land for this has already been purchased, and it will be immediately laid out. Much good is expected to result from this station.

Government Farm.

32. This institution is in a flourishing condition. The farm was originally started for two purposes, first, to supply an abundance of good milk to the public hospitals, and secondly, to improve the breed of stock in the Colony. Both of these purposes have been fulfilled. During the year, 129,514 gallons of good milk was supplied at a cost of $3\frac{3}{4}$ cents per quart, which is less than the cost of condensed milk. The San Fernando Hospital has for the last two years been supplied also, and last year took

21,864 gallons, thereby effecting a saving on the previous rate of contract of £410. The introduction of zebu cattle from India and red poll and other good stock from England and Canada has had a most beneficial effect. Stock has been purchased at the annual sales for exportation to Jamaica, Demerara, and other places. The stock now on the farm is 245 cattle, 31 horses, and imported poultry. On account of the milk being supplied at cost price no profit is shown by the institution, but the advantages gained are very great.

D.—Land Grants.

33. During the year 1898, 706 grants of Crown lands were made, comprising 8,001 acres and 62 village lots, for which £9,657 was received. During the previous year, 1897, 432 grants were made, comprising 4,690 acres and 67 village lots, realizing £5,474. The average for the last ten years, including 1898, has been 552 lots, comprising 6,237 acres and 52 village lots, realizing an average of £7,309. Up to the 30th June 1899, the number of grants completed were 535, comprising 5,439 acres and 45 lots and realizing £9,528, including survey fees, while on the same date there were still 632 applications not dealt with, comprising 6,533 acres and 22 lots. The total received for purchase money and survey fees to that date was £18,665. The estimate for the whole year was £12,500. On the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, instructions were issued for the reduction of the minimum quantity to be sold from ten acres to five acres. This alteration has not been taken advantage of to any appreciable extent, and nearly all the lots sold are of ten acres. The number of grants issued in 1898 to Indian immigrants was 217, comprising 2,698 acres and 5 village lots. Crown land is usually sold without competition for £1 per acre and 10*s.* per acre to cover cost of survey, though sometimes particularly good land has a slightly higher price put upon it.

34. The acreage under cultivation in Trinidad is estimated at 210,000 acres, and is made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Cocoa	103,000
Sugar cane	57,000
Coffee	1,500
Coconuts	14,000
Provisions (vegetables)	18,500
Pastures	10,000
Other products	6,000

E.—SHIPPING.

35. Returns of shipping inward and outward compared with that of the year 1897 will be found in Appendix K, the nationality of vessels in Appendix H, and a comparative statement of the total shipping inward and outward for the last five years in Appendix N.

III.—LEGISLATION.

36. Thirty-six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, of which two were exceptionally important.

No. 5, "An Ordinance for quieting possession and titles against the Crown in this Colony." This Ordinance establishes a title against the Crown to property after sixteen years exclusive possession or forty years enjoyment of rents.

No. 15, "An Ordinance to authorize the acquisition of land for public purposes." It was found that the valuation by a jury of land acquired for public purposes was practically unworkable, and an Ordinance was passed, providing that in case of dispute the value of such land shall be fixed by a Judge of the Supreme Court assisted by assessors. This has been found to work admirably.

IV.—EDUCATION.

A.—PRIMARY.

37. The expenditure on elementary education amounted to £35,924, being an increase of £2,028 over the previous year, and was incurred under the following heads :—

	£
Government schools	10,297
Assisted schools...	20,608
Exhibitions at colleges	222
Government training schools	1,132
Assisted	667
Administration	2,998
Total	£35,924

38. The following table gives a summary of attendance :—

Assisted Schools.	No. of Schools.	No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Roman Catholic	61	8,217	5,196
Church of England	37	5,424	3,605
Presbyterian (Canadian Mission)	44	3,554	2,137
Wesleyan	4	783	491
Moravian	1	78	47
Total Assisted Schools ...	147	18,056	11,476
„ Government Schools...	57	6,810	4,341
„ All Schools 1898 ...	204	24,866	15,817
„ „ 1897 ...	196	23,951	15,055

39. The cost to the Government of each scholar in average daily attendance was in Government schools £2 7*s.* 5*d.*, in assisted schools £1 15*s.* 11*d.*

B.—Secondary Education.

40. The two schools in which secondary education is given are the Queen's Royal College, which is a Government institution, undenominational, with 91 students ; and the St. Mary's College, which is a private institution assisted by Government, Roman Catholic, with 208 students. Four scholarships, each of the annual value of £150, tenable for three years at some European University are offered, subject to certain conditions, to the students of both Colleges who attain the highest places in one of the honour divisions of the Cambridge senior local examination.

C.—Technical Education.

41. There are two industrial schools, one for boys and one for girls. At the former, as well as at the reformatory for boys, agricultural training is carried on by officers who have had special experience of the work in England. There are no technical or agricultural schools, but arrangements are being made for agricultural teaching at elementary schools, and for this purpose a certain number of school teachers are attending agricultural lectures. A considerable number of technical lectures have been delivered during the past year at the Victoria Institute, a local institute subsidized by the Government, and these were well attended by working men.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—HOSPITALS.

42. There are nine hospitals in the Island, viz.: the Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain, with 581 beds and an average of 535 patients, the San Fernando Hospital with 205 beds and an average of 168 patients, and seven district hospitals with 218 beds and an average of 164 patients. There are also four dispensaries, nine medicine chests, and twelve yaws dispensaries.

43. The expenditure under the medical vote was as follows :—

	£
Medical (including Lunatic Asylum)	53,316
Health Department	2,916
Quarantine	1,192
Poor Law, House of Refuge	3,608
„ Leper Asylum	4,660
Total	£65,695

Divided as follows :—

——	Salaries.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£	£	£
Medical Staff	17,826	—	17,826
Clerical and Store Staff	1,362	—	1,362
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	7,402	16,887	24,289
Lunatic Asylum	2,332	5,639	7,971
Leper Asylum	1,129	3,530	4,659
House of Refuge	953	2,655	3,608
Health, Quarantine, Vaccination, &c.	1,953	4,027	5,980
Totals ... £	32,957	32,738	65,695

44. During the year there were 12,816 admissions into the hospitals, 11,227 discharges, and 1,634 deaths, giving a daily average of 814 patients, with a percentage of 11·96 deaths on the number treated. A return of the diseases treated is given in Appendix N.

PAUPERS.

45. Pauper and poverty certificates for medical attendance were issued to the number of 27,319. Of these, 21,972 were treated as out-patients, and 5,347 treated in hospital. The number of pauper certificates was 18,010, the holders of which are treated free, and the number of poverty certificates was 9,309, the holders of which are treated for a reduced fee.

YAWS.

46. The average number of yaws cases under treatment throughout the year was 500. The number of cures was 503, while 453 are reported as uncured at the close of the year.

VACCINATION.

47. 7,012 children were successfully vaccinated, being the proportion of about 96 per cent. of the births. The results obtained with glycerinated calf lymph were all that could be desired.

B.—ASYLUMS—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

48. The number of inmates at the beginning and close of the year was 468. Admissions 120, discharges 43, deaths 77 ; percentage of deaths on the average number resident 16·49. As remarked elsewhere, the inmates will be moved to new quarters within a few months.

LEPER ASYLUM.

49. This asylum is under the able administration of the Roman Catholic sisterhood " The Little Sisters of St. Dominic " with a Government Medical Superintendent. The sisters receive regular salaries as nurses and have very comfortable quarters provided for them within the institution. The number of admissions was 83, of deaths 35, and discharges 16, leaving 265 inmates at the close of the year.

C.—POOR HOUSES—HOUSE OF REFUGE.

50. The number of admissions was 105, of discharges 35, and deaths 58, leaving 232 inmates at the close of the year. Of these 57 were harmless lunatics. The average age of death of inmates other than lunatics was for males 66 years, and for females 70 years. There is a poor house belonging to the Borough Council of Port-of-Spain containing 59 inmates.

D.—Reformatories.

51. There are two reformatories—one for boys, in charge of the Church of England, and one for girls, under the care of the Church of Rome. In the boys' reformatory there were 86 inmates, who receive a sound industrial training. Besides carrying on the general service of the institution, including cooking and baking bread, the inmates cultivate a considerable quantity of farm land. A very creditable brass band has been formed among the boys. There were 26 inmates in the girls' reformatory, who were mostly engaged in laundry work.

E.—Savings Banks.

52. There are twelve branches of the Savings Bank, and 11,389 depositors having £244,288 to their credit, or an average of £21 8*s*. 11½*d*. This money is invested in Stock Annuities and Colonial Inscribed Stock and yields an interest of £7,595. The interest paid depositors was £5,478 and the cost of management £1,231. The number of deposits during the year was 19,793, amounting to £183,571, and of withdrawals 20,187, amounting to £176,702.

Laboratory.

53. This institution has done good work and will be an important factor in industrial education. 1,213 samples were analysed during the year.

Fire Brigades.

54. There are two fire brigades, one in Port-of-Spain and one in San Fernando. The Port-of-Spain Fire Brigade consists of the Commandant, 20 paid members, and 39 volunteers, and cost £2,257. The San Fernando Fire Brigade consists of a paid Commandant and 24 volunteers, and cost £232. In both cases the Government pays one-half the cost, the respective Borough Councils one-third, and the Insurance Companies one-sixth.

Printing Department.

55. This institution is very complete. It cost during the year £7,128, including £1,300 for stationery for public departments. There were printed 1,900,000 forms and circulars, 10,000 ledgers, journals, &c., 5,988 counterfoil books. 2,943 volumes were bound.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

A.—POLICE.

56. The strength of the force including all ranks was 555, which was distributed among 37 stations. 57 horses and mules are attached to the force. Of these 555 men, 318 were natives of Barbados and only 52 natives of Trinidad. The police are armed and drilled and are a semi-military body forming part of the local forces, under which heading they will be dealt with later. When on police work they carry the usual policeman's baton. The cost of the force was £43,545.

B.—PRISONS.

57. There are three prisons, the Central Gaol, which is in the middle of the town of Port-of-Spain, the Female Prison, which is about one mile from the town, and the Establishment on Carrera Island, about seven miles from Port-of-Spain and half a mile from the nearest land, from which it is separated by a deep channel having a strong current. Only one prisoner has ever made good his escape from this prison. The number of female prisoners is so small, being under fifty, that their time is fully taken up by mending and washing prison clothes. Of the male prisoners, unless there is some reason to the contrary, all, except very short-sentence men, are sent to Carrera Island. There the chief occupation is quarrying and breaking up stones for road metal, which is droghed to the various landing places on the coast. The prisons have been much improved of late years, additions being made by prison labour at a small cost. The separate system is in force.

The following figures are interesting :—

——	Males.	Females.
The number of prisoners committed during the year	3,370	564
Discharged on expiration of sentence	3,372	571
Discharged by His Excellency the Governor for special reason.	11	0
Transferred to Lunatic Asylum	3	2
„ „ House of Refuge	1	0
„ „ Colonial Hospital	2	1
Discharged on ticket of leave	23	1
Died from natural causes	26	2
Number in custody on 31st December, 1898 ...	385	28
Daily average for year 1898	382	39

TRINIDAD, 1898.

The number of committals was 656 males and 114 females less than in 1897, being 471 males and 133 females below the average for four years.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure for prisons was ...	8,593	10	6½
Estimated value of prisoners' labour, exclusive of that in service of prison ...	3,044	6	8½
Daily gross cost of each prisoner ...	0	1	1¼
Daily cost deducting value of labour ...	0	0	8½
Daily cost of each prisoner, exclusive of pay of Staff	0	0	5
Daily cost of each prisoner for the Staff	0	0	8¼

The following is a comparison of expenditure and an average number of prisoners for the last five years :—

Year.	Average number of Prisoners.		Expenditure.		
	Males.	Females.			
			£	s.	d.
1893	499	44	10,520	7	0
1894	509	50	10,517	10	0
1895	463	45	9,398	16	11½
1896	424	46	9,220	17	1
1897	399	41	8,817	1	7½
Average for 5 years ...	459	45	9,694	18	6½
1898	382	39	8,593	10	6½
Below the average by ...	77	6	1,101	8	0

C.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

58. The number of offences reported to the police was 14,996, against 17,484 in 1897 and 19,279 in 1896. 18,674 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate, of whom 11,831 were summarily convicted and 130 committed for trial at the sessions. Of the latter, 64 were convicted. There were no judicial executions during 1898, but during the first half of 1899 there were five, three of whom were East Indians and two creoles.

The following is a comparative statement of crime for the past five years :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences	15,779	18,238	19,279	17,484	14,996
Apprehensions	20,468	21,037	22,820	20,725	18,674
Convictions by Magistrate	12,262	12,892	13,978	13,090	11,831
Convictions in Superior Courts.	115	106	75	72	64

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A.—Population.

59. The estimated population at end of 1897 was 252,544.

Births registered during 1898 ...	7,962	
Deaths „ „ „ ...	6,755	
Natural increase		1,207
Arrivals recorded by the Harbour Master during 1898	19,828	
Departures recorded by the Harbour Master during 1898	13,062	
Increase by Immigration		6,766
Estimated population at end of 1898 ...		260,517
The actual population at the last census in 1891 was		200,028
Increase in eight years		60,489
The number of East Indians in the Island is estimated to be		83,505

60. Of the total number of births registered, 4,060 were males and 3,902 females. This gives a birth-rate of 31 per thousand; of the above births, 5,592 were among the general population and

2,370 among the East Indians, of the former 2,321 were legitimate and 3,271 illegitimate. There were 620 still-births recorded. The number of legitimate and illegitimate births among the East Indians is not given, as it is not fair to say that the off-spring of parents married according to their own religion is illegitimate.

61. The deaths, 3,793 males and 2,962 females, give a death-rate of 26·3 per thousand. More than one-fourth of the deaths occurred among children under one year of age, while nearly one-third were among those under five years old.

Seven males and nine females reached the age of 95, of whom six were centenarians.

B.—Public Health.

62. The general state of public health during the year was satisfactory. In some districts dysentery in a particularly aggravated form was prevalent. This is attributed to the drinking of bad water. It is satisfactory to notice that since the introduction of pure water into the town of Arima, dysentery, which had for years been prevalent, has practically ceased to exist. A very interesting paper by the Professor of Chemistry was printed in the November number of "The Journal of Tropical Medicine" giving the curve lines of rainfall and death-rate for the town of Port-of-Spain. It is a striking fact that there are rhythmic rises and falls in both curves, those of the rain curve usually preceding those of the other by a month or two.

C.—Sanitation.

63. A Staff of Sanitary Inspectors is established throughout the Island who work under the direction of the Surgeon-General; orders were served by the Sanitary Inspectors of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando during the year to the number of 11,979.

D.—Climate.

(1.)—*Rainfall.*

64. The average annual rainfall for 30 years, 1862 to 1891, was 65·91 inches. The average for 7 years, 1892–98, was 71·42 inches. The mean rainfall for 1898 taken at 72 Stations was 73·21 inches.

(2.)—*Temperature.*

65. The reading of the thermometer gives a monthly average for the year of *maximum* 87·6, *minimum* 69·2, with a mean annual temperature of 78·4. The highest was the average for May with 92·3, the lowest the average for February with 67·0. The mean daily height of the barometer was 29·954 inches. The average humidity was 80.

These observations were taken at the Botanical Station, which is 140 feet above sea level. The barometer readings are reduced.

66. The weather Bureau Division of the United States Department of Agriculture has instituted an observatory of the best class in Port-of-Spain, which sends telegraphic messages at least twice daily to head quarters.

(3.)—*Direction and Force of Wind.*

67. A table giving the force and direction of wind for each month in the year forms Appendix O.

Seismograph.

68. This instrument for recording earthquakes has just been erected as part of the Meteorological Department of the Botanical Gardens. It has been established in connection with the Seismological Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

69. There are 58 post offices, 12 money order offices, and 29 telegraph offices in Trinidad. The revenue of the Post Office was £9,457, and the expenditure £18,094. The latter includes £2,740 subsidy to the Royal Mail, and £1,579 for transit charges under the Postal Union. The number of letters passing through the Post Office during the year was 1,373,737. The number of newspapers, book packets, &c., 520,580, and the number of parcels 14,482. The value of the money orders sent out of the Colony was £39,101, and of those paid in the Colony £6,948.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

70. A subsidy of £3,000 per annum is paid to the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, by which telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world *viâ* New York, or they can be routed over the Bermuda and Halifax line *viâ* Jamaica and Bermuda. The rate per word to England is 5*s*. 4*d*. Internal telegraph lines are laid along the various railway lines, and there is an extensive system of telephones over the greater part of the Island.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

A. B.—REGULAR FORCES—MILITIA.

71. None.

C.—VOLUNTEERS.

72. There is a Volunteer Force, consisting of the Commandant, Staff Officer, Garrison Quartermaster, 5 Sergeant Instructors, (all the above have served in the regular army), 53 officers, and 762 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, divided as follows :—

—	Officers.	W.O., N.C.O., and men.
Permanent Staff	3	5
Trinidad Light Horse (Yeomanry)	17	83
Trinidad Field Artillery Volunteers*	6	136
Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers	30	487
Total	56	711

* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE : Disbanded since the date of this Report.

The cost of this force, which is entirely paid from Colonial funds, was £6,241.

D.—CONSTABULARY.

73. The police is a semi-military force, which has not only to keep order in the Colony, but also, when required, to defend it against Her Majesty's enemies. The force consists of an Inspector-General, who is also Commandant of the local forces, a Deputy Inspector-General, 3 Inspectors, and 550 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. They are well-drilled, taught to shoot, and next year, in common with the whole of the local forces, will be armed with Martini-Enfield rifles. When on police duty they do not carry arms, but a policeman's baton.

74. The total strength of the local forces is 61 officers and 1,317 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

75. The tables attached to this Report are for the year 1898, but in these remarks the present condition of the Island is dealt with rather than that of several months ago. On the 1st of January, 1899, the Island of Tobago, containing 114 square miles with a population of 18,000, and having a revenue and expenditure of £8,107 and £8,385, respectively, became an integral part of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago. Its departments were made district branches of the several chief offices in Trinidad and the treasuries were amalgamated. This Report deals with Trinidad alone except where expressly stated.

76. There is no doubt that Trinidad is at the present moment more prosperous than it has ever been before. The crops just taken off are exceptional, both in extent and in price. The sugar crop and the cocoa crop are far above the average, and both articles are obtaining remunerative prices. A few sugar estates have been unfortunate, but the majority have made good profits, while every cocoa estate has paid well.

77. The following is a comparative statement of exports up to 6th July for this and previous years :—

Year	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Asphalt.
	Reduced to bags.	lbs.	Tons.
1895	438,514	19,253,315	36,148
1896	463,037	15,446,457	46,659
1897	459,528	15,389,080	67,552
1898	422,270	15,624,700	50,323
1899	460,803	21,690,470	59,103

These figures are shadowed in the Treasury receipts to the 30th June, as compared with the previous year as follows :—

—	1898.	1899.
Customs	122,654	131,136
Excise	54,548	57,999
Government Railway	40,136	43,305
Land Sales	11,661	17,825

78. Another sign of general prosperity is the almost total temporary disappearance of the larger currency represented by five dollar bank notes. These, no doubt, were paid away to cane farmers, small cocoa proprietors, and country shopkeepers who are temporarily hoarding them, and will return to circulation or be taken to Venezuela after the conclusion of crop. Yet another and lasting sign is the erection in every direction of neat little wooden cottages. These are small, but they are well finished and are such as are occupied by members of the working and small trading classes who have saved money.

RAILWAYS, ROADS.

79. Two extensions of the Government railway have recently been opened—one from Arima to Sangre Grande of 13 miles was opened in 1897 and already is paying considerably more than its working expenses, and a new branch from Caroni to Tabaquite of 15 miles, through entirely new country, was opened in 1898, but is not yet paying its working expenses, though doing much good by opening out the country, which is being taken up in considerable quantities. The total length of lines is 81 miles. The roads throughout the Island are being extended and improved, though very much still remains to be done in this direction.

IMMIGRATION.

80. The number of arrivals in the Colony during 1898 was 19,828 and departures 13,062, giving an increase to the population by immigration of 6,766.

The number of East Indians brought to the Colony under indenture was 1,292 souls, and 746 were sent back to India. The former were brought from Calcutta in two ships, and it is remarkable that every one embarked at Calcutta in the first of these was landed in Trinidad, with the addition of five infants born on the voyage; while in the second ship there were three deaths, but five more souls were landed than were embarked. The 746 who returned to India transmitted savings to the amount of £10,863, besides the jewellery and gold coins displayed on their persons. Of the 83,505 East Indians resident in Trinidad, 4,481 have deposits in the Savings Bank amounting to £88,440. The deposits during the year amounted to £40,570, and £2,781 was remitted to friends in India.

There are two orphan homes for East Indians, one in Port-of-Spain under the charge of a Roman Catholic sisterhood with 53 inmates, and one at Tacarigua, under charge of the Anglican Church, with 58 inmates. In both cases the Government contributes annually ten pounds a head.

PUBLIC WORKS.

81. The several public works commenced in 1895, or shortly afterwards, are completed or approaching completion. Two lighthouses have been built. The San Fernando and Arima waterworks are opened, to the very great comfort of the inhabitants of these boroughs. The water tanks at Couva are finished, and the waterworks for St. Joseph and Tunapuna progressing. The harbour improvements at Port-of-Spain will be finished by the end of the year, and already the facilities to trade obtained thereby are thoroughly appreciated. A new steamer's warehouse has been built. The new lunatic asylum, which will have cost over £50,000, will be occupied within the next few months. These are handsome and substantial buildings, built throughout of concrete, and will last practically for all time. It is a pity that the site is rather in the background, as the appearance of the buildings would do credit to any town. The casing of galleries and additions to the public buildings in Port-of-Spain finished in 1897 change what was a structure of mean and barn-like appearance into a very handsome edifice. The new waterworks and sewerage works for Port-of-Spain are progressing very slowly. As yet preliminary work only has been done, but once the designs are settled the work will proceed more rapidly. A new fire brigade station for Port-of-Spain of handsome appearance was completed in 1897, and various police stations and schools have lately been erected in the districts. All these are built of concrete, which, though somewhat costly at first, will in the future require but little outlay for repairs. Several more buildings are required, the erection of which will no doubt be sanctioned in due course.

CLIMATE.

82. The climate is not suited for white labour, the sun being too powerful for Europeans. There is a limited opening for mechanics and artisans, but none should attempt to come out unless employment has already been secured.

RATES OF WAGES.

83. Wages are fairly good. A labourer will earn from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and an artisan from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* The cost of living is high for Europeans, as everything costs more than in England, and house rent is simply ruinous. Compared with wages in England, servants' wages are low, ranging from £20 to £30 a year for men servants, and somewhat less for female servants, board wages.

OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL.

84. There are ample and safe openings for the investment of capital, but investors should exercise the utmost caution before deciding on them. Interest on mortgages, which until recently

ranged from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. or even higher, has mostly come down to 5 or 6 per cent. for good securities. Money, where the investor could afford to wait for a return, could profitably be invested with syndicates for clearing new land and planting rubber and cocoa. With a command of capital a large established cocoa estate could be purchased, which under a good manager would give an ample return for the outlay, but in this case the capital should not be less than £10,000 to £20,000. A young man with limited capital could do worse than come out, and either in partnership with others or by himself acquire a small cocoa estate on which he could live and which he would manage.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

85. Trinidad is a thoroughly civilized place. The capital, with 50,000 inhabitants, is well laid out, and fairly well kept. There are a large quantity of shops, or stores as they are called locally, in which anything can be purchased. Some of these stores are commodious and handsome. Carriages and buggies abound. The visitors' list at Government House includes some 800 names. The population is very mixed, consisting in the upper classes of English, French, Spanish, Americans, and Germans, while the labourers include negroes, East Indians, Chinese and Spaniards.

C. C. KNOLLYS

Acting Governor.

Government House, Trinidad,
11th July 1899.

APPENDIX A.

HEADS of REVENUE for 1897 and 1898.

Heads of Revenue.	1897.			1898.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	244,684	18	5	238,089	18	2
Port, Harbour, Wharf, &c., Dues	7,424	4	9½	6,361	0	1½
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	172,969	1	0	181,998	13	1½
Fees of Court, &c., &c.	35,654	6	0	39,769	3	3
Post Office	8,920	4	0	9,519	15	2½
Government Railway, &c.	67,230	10	7	71,165	13	2
Rents of Government Property	571	10	5½	752	15	2½
Interest	10,811	18	10	11,542	14	10
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,103	18	4½	4,233	15	0½
Transport Train (Public Works)	—			—		
Total—Exclusive of Land Sales, &c.	550,370	12	5½	563,433	8	1½
Land Sales, &c.	16,787	5	5	21,085	2	11½
Immigration Taxes, &c.	44,276	2	9½	30,853	1	3½
Total	611,434	0	8	615,371	12	4½

TRINIDAD, 1898.

APPENDIX B.

HEADS of EXPENDITURE for 1897 and 1898.

Heads of Expenditure.	1897.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on account of Public Debt	37,046	6	11	47,657	13	2
Pensions, Gratuities, &c.	13,922	3	0½	15,514	5	1½
Governor and Legislature	6,584	5	1½	5,999	5	1
Colonial Secretary	4,022	17	0½	3,722	10	3½
Auditor-General	3,350	9	8	3,434	4	4
Military	7,394	9	9	6,198	8	11
Immigration	63,417	19	4	43,809	10	9
Receiver-General	15,348	17	9	15,627	1	6½
Crown Lands...	7,703	15	5	9,385	17	6½
Customs	17,813	13	1	19,548	14	7
Police	44,043	12	9½	43,545	13	2
Registrar-General	3,328	14	9½	3,025	18	8½
Post Office, Mail, and Telegraph Subsidies.	20,635	6	6½	22,043	14	0½
Port and Marine	8,686	9	3½	9,841	4	2½
Printing	7,049	19	3	7,117	12	10½
Laboratory	2,190	10	11½	1,242	13	9½
Legal	11,689	12	1½	11,350	17	0
Carried forward	274,229	2	10½	269,065	5	1½

APPENDIX B.—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	1897.			1898.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Brought forward	274,229	2	10½	269,065	5	1½
Magistracy	11,599	13	9½	11,482	16	9
Wardens	14,811	17	6	15,342	7	11
Medical, Hospitals, Asylums, &c. ...	65,823	5	1½	65,578	14	8½
Education	39,506	19	0	41,622	2	2
Prisons, Reformatories, and Industrial Schools.	13,869	14	1½	13,006	10	11
Transport	70	9	1	103	12	2
Ecclesiastical	10,600	0	0	10,600	0	0
Crown Agents	657	19	7	883	11	8
Botanical and Agricultural	5,813	0	0	6,411	10	1
Fire Brigades	3,007	1	4	2,490	8	3½
Miscellaneous Services	12,556	16	6	6,844	12	2
Government Railway	63,344	7	6½	70,349	6	7
Director of Public Works	106,473	16	5½	127,171	8	7½
Pubic Works, Recurrent, &c. ...						
Total	622,364	2	11	640,952	7	2

APPENDIX C.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE for 5 YEARS of the BOROUGHS of PORT of SPAIN, SAN FERNANDO, and ARIMA.

Year.	Port of Spain.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	20,206	22,577
1895	15,599	14,459
1896	23,532	26,356
1897	20,180	20,515
1898	19,987	19,274

Year.	San Fernando.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	5,339	5,490
1895	6,069	5,401
1896	5,091	5,331
1897	5,320	5,211
1898	5,301	5,366

APPENDIX C.—*continued.*

Year.	Arima.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	1,330	1,296
1895	1,325	1,325
1896	1,476	1,476
1897	1,369	1,369
1898	1,300	1,054

APPENDIX D.

IMPORTS.

VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED in 1898 as compared with 1897.

——	1897.	1898.
	£	£
Bread	11,162	14,862
Flour	127,383	152,797
Dholl	11,734	13,766
Peas and beans	8,771	9,350
Rice	124,026	104,146
Balata gum	18,498	34,229

APPENDIX D.—*continued.*

—	1897.	1898.
	£	£
Butter	23,023	20,843
Do. substitutes, lard, &c.... ...	18,733	19,044
Cement	20,814	17,267
Cocoa, raw	92,498	101,464
Coal and coke	26,412	27,563
Earthen and glass ware	17,298	16,083
Fish	58,425	66,818
Hardware	95,810	129,132
Machinery	29,476	26,613
Malt liquor	37,662	40,965
Medicine	16,572	15,732
Meats	46,781	72,789
Oil, kerosine	17,217	16,597
Soap	22,317	20,596
Live stock, oxen	40,816	37,340
,, other	31,323	28,820
Spirits	18,434	17,776
Timber	42,611	41,216
Textile manufactures...	309,611	315,632
Fresh vegetables	40,778	34,026
Wine	30,775	25,799

APPENDIX E.

EXPORTS.

VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED in 1898 as compared with 1897.

—	1897	1898.
	£	£
Asphalt, Crude	110,543	86,574
Do. Epuré	28,258	27,243
Cocoa	605,690	812,272
Coconuts	24,490	30,439
Molasses	16,991	16,595
Rum	6,089	5,300
Bitters	40,106	33,991
Sugar	538,597	603,285
Balata Gum	22,207	28,313

APPENDIX F.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS for 1898 and the FOUR PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total Value.	Value Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.	Total Value.	Value Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.
	£	£	£	£
1894	2,152,883	1,869,330	2,000,748	1,726,963
1895	2,276,864	2,040,872	2,065,104	1,791,867
1896	2,463,525	2,188,189	2,165,820	1,896,748
1897	2,161,231	1,992,537	1,994,926	1,823,818
1898	2,283,054	2,123,589	2,310,130	2,189,731

APPENDIX G.

TOTAL VALUE of the IMPORTS of the COLONY from each COUNTRY in the YEARS 1896, 1897, and 1898.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS. 1896.			IMPORTS. 1897			IMPORTS. 1898.		
	Goods Entered for Transhipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Transhipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Transhipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	92,029	886,536	978,565	86,361	771,496	857,857	69,650	726,709	796,359
BRITISH COLONIES:									
B. E. Indies	6,591	114,700	121,291	2,600	82,771	85,371	—	85,678	85,678
B. N. America	112	74,197	74,309	10	60,650	60,660	160	72,893	73,053
B. W. Indies	152	36,455	36,607	92	49,665	49,757	—	61,102	61,102
B. Guiana	—	8,625	8,625	—	5,192	5,192	—	3,908	3,908
O. B. Colonies	—	606	606	—	799	799	—	779	779
Total	6,855	234,583	241,433	2,702	199,077	201,779	160	224,360	224,520

FOREIGN COUNTRIES:									
France	6 398	87,874	94,272	1,894	58,942	60,836	3,616	62,922	66,538
Germany	2,507	47,653	50,160	807	32,015	32,822	1,691	31,655	33,346
Holland	14 784	10,183	24,967	37,422	7,526	44,948	40,031	8,538	48,569
Spain	6,956	16,390	23,346	5,296	21,110	26,406	3,528	21,087	24,615
Austria	—	10,700	10,700	—	741	741	—	835	835
Portugal	—	3,969	3,969	—	10,735	10,735	—	7,515	7,515
Belgium	200	1,013	1,213	—	519	519	—	2,323	2,323
Switzerland	—	5,185	5,185	—	565	565	—	224	224
Denmark	—	173	173	—	168	168	—	93	93
Italy	—	145	145	—	235	235	—	194	194
United States	20,488	437,992	458,480	33,028	417,636	450,664	38,331	457,838	496,169
Dutch Guiana	10	748	758	—	141	144	—	15	15
Dutch W. Indies	—	88	88	82	451	533	20	855	875
French Guiana	—	224	224	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ W. Indies	—	3,215	3,215	—	448	448	100	516	616
Danish W. Indies	—	1,354	1,354	—	2,379	2,379	—	2,056	2,056
Carried forward ...	51,343	626,906	678,249	78,529	553,614	632,143	87.317	596,666	683,983

APPENDIX G.—*continued.*

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS. 1896.			IMPORTS. 1897.			IMPORTS. 1898.		
	Goods Entered for Transhipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Transhipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Transhipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	51,343	626,906	678,249	78,529	553,614	632,143	87,317	596,666	683,983
Cuba and Porto Rico	61	259	320	125	12	137	—	62	62
San Domingo and Hayti ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,680	2,680
Venezuela	5,034	519,008	524,042	279,144	183,553	462,697	348,173	226,440	574,613
South America	—	40,186	40,186	5,785	833	6,618	—	799	799
Other Countries	17	703	725	—	—	—	—	40	40
Total	56,455	1,187,067	1,243,522	363,583	738,012	1,101,595	435,490	826,687	1,262,177
United Kingdom	92,029	886,536	978,565	86,361	771,495	857,857	69,650	726,709	796,359
British Colonies	6,855	234,583	241,438	2,702	199,077	201,779	160	224,360	224,520
Foreign Countries	56,455	1,187,067	1,243,522	363,583	738,012	1,101,595	435,490	826,687	1,262,177
GRAND TOTAL	155,339	2,308,186	2,463,525	452,646	1,708,585	2,161,231	505,300	1,777,756	2,283,056

3586*—5

APPENDIX H.

TOTAL VALUE of the EXPORTS of the COLONY to each COUNTRY in the YEARS 1896, 1897, and 1898.

COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS. 1896.				EXPORTS. 1897.				EXPORTS. 1898.			
	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	662,524	1,644	279,720	943,888	476,351	194,130	43,059	713,540	502,732	175,679	34,800	713,211
BRITISH COLONIES:												
B. E. Indies ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	135	135	42	—	26	68
B. N. America ...	7,880	60	105	8,045	12,082	1,518	126	13,726	20,426	665	554	21,645
B. W. Indies ...	3,308	1,854	21,104	26,266	2,595	5,801	14,319	22,715	3,383	2,941	17,469	23,793
B. Guiana	1,169	2,252	2,359	5,780	1,146	1,701	1,923	4,770	1,193	1,037	4,131	6,361
O. B. Colonies. ...	2	—	36	38	—	—	—	—	1,094	—	2	1,096
Total	12,359	4,166	23,604	40,129	15,823	9,020	16,503	41,346	26,138	4,643	22,182	52,963

APPENDIX H.—*continued.*

COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS. 1896.				EXPORTS 1897.				EXPORTS. 1898.			
	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
France	176,848	—	18,843	195,691	202,195	780	16,165	219,140	258,058	137	22,811	281,006
Germany	27,924	10	15,477	43,411	53,813	3,093	16,009	72,915	38,765	13,708	8,525	60,998
Holland	17,291	929	2,132	20,352	15,670	9,807	9,143	34,620	9,493	17,343	30,072	56,908
Spain	—	—	3,630	3,630	380	1,044	3,135	4,559	603	—	1,656	2,259
Austria	654	—	58	712	599	—	—	599	559	—	—	559
Portugal	1,506	28	—	1,534	1,427	—	67	1,494	1,797	—	100	1,897
Belgium	248	—	—	248	457	—	—	457	277	—	—	277
Switzerland ...	156	—	151	307	447	—	—	447	—	—	—	—
Denmark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	1,140	—	1,140	1	—	—	1

United States ...	434,156	2,949	232,845	669,950	524,264	46,862	57,138	628,264	665,734	118,838	78,893	863,465
Dutch Guiana ...	5	20	1,174	1,199	185	476	1,101	1,762	323	—	568	891
Dutch West Indies .	105	—	—	105	118	29	361	508	41	—	1,711	1,752
French Guiana ...	20	66	445	531	311	138	1,996	2,445	492	563	3,307	4,362
„ W. Indies...	25,410	5	112	25,527	8,701	—	2,841	11,542	7,543	—	350	7,893
Danish „ ...	323	2	21	346	375	685	1,264	2,324	263	—	82	345
Cuba and Porto Rico	3	—	—	3	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	—
San Domingo and Hayti.	—	5,000	—	5,000	38	—	—	38	157	—	18	175
Mexico	—	—	—	—	680	—	—	680	482	—	2,242	2,724
Venezuela	485	116,630	92,612	209,727	289	185,442	69,029	254,760	480	174,389	80,550	255,419
South America ...	3,018	—	25	3,043	2,262	—	—	2,262	2,622	—	405	3,027
Other Countries ...	314	—	173	487	69	—	3	72	1	—	—	1
Total	688,466	125,639	367,698	1,181,803	812,280	249,496	178,264	1,240,040	987,691	324,978	231,290	1,543,959
United Kingdom ...	662,524	1,644	279,720	943,888	476,351	194,130	43,059	713,540	502,732	175,679	34,800	713,211
British Colonies ...	12,359	4,166	23,604	40,129	15,823	9,020	16,503	41,346	26,138	4,643	22,182	52,963
Foreign Countries ...	688,466	125,639	367,698	1,181,803	812,280	249,496	178,264	1,240,040	987,691	324,978	231,290	1,543,959
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,363,349	131,449	671,022	2,165,820	1,304,454	452,646	237,826	1,994,926	1,516,561	505,300	288,272	2,310,133

APPENDIX I.

The CLASS of IMPORTS and EXPORTS was as follows during the Years 1897 and 1898 :—

Class.	1897.		1898.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
Live Animals, Food, and Drink.	901,941	1,328,502	943,507	1,614,070
Raw Material	129,381	241,005	336,569	337,094
Manufactured Articles ...	961,215	254,311	843,515	238,567
Coin and Bullion	168,694	171,108	159,465	120,402
Total	2,161,231	1,994,926	2,283,056	2,310,133

The TOTAL QUANTITIES and VALUES of the more important STAPLES EXPORTED during the last five years were :—

Year.	Sugar.		Cocoa.		Asphalt.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity,	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1894 ...	104,986,406	598,010	21,608,384	587,564	99,192	112,401
1895 ...	122,353,755	596,415	29,458,813	620,634	86,148	97,318
1896 ...	120,562,942	700,347	23,481,848	452,141	96,385	106,920
1897 ...	110,026,245	537,107	23,840,665	532,123	124,672	138,801
1898 ...	113,696,521	602,045	24,340,960	812,272	100,208	113,829

APPENDIX I.—*continued.*

The DIRECTIONS in which the STAPLES of the ISLAND were EXPORTED, and their VALUES, were as follows:—

—	United Kingdom.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar	204,847	127	383,528	13,543	602,045
Molasses	1,356	—	682	14,557	16,595
Rum	4,743	4	56	497	5,300
Cocoa	240,875	253,294	196,370	121,733	812,272
Coconuts	23,390	10	6,144	895	30,439
Asphalt	11,307	4,056	67,028	31,438	113,829
Bitters	12,204	449	10,209	11,129	33,991
Total ...	498,722	257,940	664,017	193,792	1,614,471

APPENDIX K.

SHIPPING IN 1898.

Entered.

From	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	40	21,331	53	90,944	93	112,275
U. S. America	52	25,332	29	39,434	81	64,766
B. N. America	32	3,811	13	15,291	45	19,102
B. W. I. and B. Guiana...	453	27,629	161	176,944	614	204,573
Venezuela	1,590	16,754	113	88,992	1,703	105,746
Other Countries	55	18,009	46	58,434	101	76,443
Total	2,222	112,866	415	470,039	2,637	582,905
Totals for 1897 ...	2,462	139,954	454	533,369	2,916	673,323

Cleared.

To	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	31	14,201	5	6,206	36	20,407
U. S. America	68	36,442	30	43,329	98	79,771
B. N. America	11	1,799	13	15,276	24	17,075
B. W. I. and B. Guiana...	431	17,896	170	184,986	601	202,882
Venezuela	1,580	17,057	173	188,197	1,753	205,254
Other Countries	65	22,738	27	32,690	92	55,428
Total	2,186	110,133	418	470,684	2,604	580,817
Totals for 1897 ...	2,461	137,794	447	529,879	2,908	667,673

APPENDIX L.

NATIONALITY of VESSELS ENTERED in 1898.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.		Totals for 1897.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	497	33,977	219	316,191	716	350,168	854	399,781
French	9	2,004	66	67,312	75	69,316	57	64,980
U. S. America... ...	59	29,282	26	8,316	85	37,598	141	71,809
Venezuela	1,580	16,398	52	22,202	1,632	38,600	1,714	47,000
Dutch	10	813	48	52,140	58	52,953	57	45,022
Norwegian	22	9,365	2	746	24	10,111	33	14,708
German...	15	8,780	2	3,132	17	11,912	—	—
Russian...	10	4,151	—	—	10	4,151	—	—
Other Countries ...	20	8,096	—	—	20	8,096	60	30,023
Total	2,222	112,866	415	470,039	2,637	582,905	2,916	673,323

APPENDIX M.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of TOTAL SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the last FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894 ...	2,518	638,783	2,484	634,672
1895 ...	2,512	649,085	2,512	642,790
1896 ...	2,817	623,241	2,815	619,037
1897 ...	2,916	673,323	2,908	667,873
1898 ...	2,637	582,905	2,604	580,817

APPENDIX N.

RETURN of DISEASES and DEATHS during 1898 at all the HOSPITALS of TRINIDAD.

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
GENERAL DISEASES.		
Cow-pox	4	—
Measles	1	—
Chicken-pox	1	—
Typhus	—	—
Whooping Cough	26	—
Influenza	163	21
Diphtheria	1	—
Carried forward	196	21

APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
GENERAL DISEASES—*continued.*		
Brought forward	196	21
Febricula	31	2
Enteric Fever	24	32
Typho-malarial Fever	6	6
Dysentery (included in Digestive System)	—	—
Beri-beri...	1	1
Malarial Fever :		
(*a.*) Intermittent	1,008	10
(*b.*) Remittent	502	54
(*c.*) Pernicious R.	52	7
Phagedœna	1	—
Erysipelas	11	4
Pyæmia	1	—
Septicæmia	1	6
Tetanus	14	21
Tubercle...	33	70
Leprosy :		
(*a.*) Tubercular	58	—
(*b.*) Anæsthetic	126	7
Yaws	130	—
Syphilis :		
(*a.*) Primary...	28	1
(*b.*) Secondary	64	4
(*c.*) Inherited	88	26
Gonorrhœa	118	—
Carried forward	2,493	272

TRINIDAD, 1898.

APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
GENERAL DISEASES—*continued.*		
Brought forward	2,493	272
Hydrophobia	—	1
Scurvy	—	—
Alcoholism	32	3
Delirium Tremens	6	—
Rheumatism	237	3
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Gout	1	—
New Growth, non-malignant	66	—
New Growth, malignant	16	8
Anæmia	922	109
Leucocythæmia	1	—
Diabetes mellitus	4	1
Diabetes insipidus	—	—
Premature Birth	5	16
Debility	422	106
LOCAL DISEASES.		
DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM :—		
Sub-section 1—Diseases of the Nerves :		
Neuritis	4	1
Hæmorrhage	11	12
Meningitis	4	13
Myelitis	—	—
Softening	2	1
Carried forward	4,227	546

APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
LOCAL DISEASES—*continued.*		
DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—*continued.*		
Sub section 1—Diseases of the Nerves—*continued.*		
Brought forward	4,227	546
Hydrocephalus	2	—
Hyperæmia	2	1
Encephalitis	—	—
Abscess of Brain	1	3
Congestion of Brain	—	—
Locomotor Ataxia	3	—
Sub-section 2—Functional Nervous Disorders :		
Apoplexy	4	7
Paralysis...	30	11
Chorea	11	—
Eclampsia	8	13
Epilepsy	30	—
Vertigo	2	—
Neuralgia	70	—
Torticollis	2	—
Hysteria	25	1
Sub-section 3—Mental Diseases :		
Idiocy	7	—
Mania	25	—
Melancholia	5	—
Dementia	24	—
Delusional Insanity	3	—
Carried forward	4,481	582

APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
LOCAL DISEASES—*continued.*		
Brought forward	4,481	582
Diseases of the Eye	197	—
„ „ Ear	16	—
„ „ Nose	31	—
„ „ Circulatory System	96	63
„ „ Respiratory „	730	288
„ „ Digestive „	1,358	438
„ „ Lymphatic „	108	2
„ „ Thyroid Body	1	—
„ „ Urinary System...	222	108
„ „ Generative „	—	—
Male Organs	487	10
Female „	131	4
Affections connected with Pregnancy	61	2
„ „ „ Parturition...	14	2
„ consequent on „	6	4
Diseases of the Female Breast	30	2
„ „ Organs of Locomotion...	160	12
„ „ Cellular Tissue	176	4
„ „ Skin	1,132	21
Injuries, General	114	15
„ Local	663	10
Surgical Operations	—	—
Malformations	27	30
Poisons	18	—
Parasites	75	3
Ankylostoma	322	34
No appreciable disease	571	—
Total	11,227	1,634

APPENDIX O.

DATA RELATIVE to WINDS prevailing in TRINIDAD from AUGUST 1898 to JUNE 1899. Furnished by the OBSERVER of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA WEATHER BUREAU in PORT OF SPAIN.

Month.	Total Movement.	Prevailing Direction.	Per cent.	Average Hourly Velocity.
1898.	Miles.			
August (for 25 days only).	2,023	E.	18	—
September ...	2,458	E.	20	3·4
October	2,669	E.	18	3·6
November... ...	2,474	E.	26	3·4
December... ...	2,757	N.E.	22	3·7
1899.				
January	3,229	N.E.	40	4·3
February	3,258	E.	50	4·8
March	3,372	E.	42	4·5
April	4,417	E.	73	6·1
May	4,880	E.	91	6·6
June	3,344	E.	64	4·6

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1899.

No. 269.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 230.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

September, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1899.

[C.—9498-3.] *Price* 1½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
241	Trinidad and Tobago	1897
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,
264	Gambia	,,
265	St. Helena	,,
266	Leeward Islands	,,
267	St. Lucia...	,,
268	Fiji	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 269.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 230.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,
Jamaica,
20th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year ended 31st December 1898, together with the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.,
AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) *General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following comparative statement and table gives the heads of Revenue and Expenditure and the amounts received undert hose heads for the years 1897 and 1898, as well as the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years 1894–98 :—

3395*—75—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

Revenue.

—	1897.		1898.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Import Duties	—	3,567 11 6	—	2,918 2 11
Royalty on Salt exported ...	—	3,260 12 6	—	2,088 3 8
Port Dues:—				
Light	977 19 8	—	638 5 0	—
Wharf	55 6 1	—	74 2 0	—
		1,033 5 9		712 7 0
Licences and Internal Revenue:—				
Dog Licences	30 0 0	—	26 8 0	—
Liquor Licences	173 15 0	—	155 0 0	—
Auction Dues...	48 19 9	—	41 14 10	—
Fines and Forfeitures ...	44 7 0	—	37 13 1	—
		297 1 9		260 15 11
Payments for Specific Services:—				
Storage...	28 19 11	—	50 2 4	—
Fees of Office	39 12 9	—	56 18 0	—
„ „ Court...	61 12 9	—	69 19 1	—
„ „ Cemetery	3 9 0	—	2 14 0	—
Rent of Market Stalls ...	9 16 6	—	9 19 3	—
Grant in aid of Mail Service	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—
		393 10 11		439 12 8
Post Office	—	533 17 4	—	364 6 2
Revenue from Government Property:—				
Sales of Crown Land ...	26 17 0	—	8 7 1	—
Rents	14 9 8	—	58 13 11	—
Sales of Water	169 9 8	—	76 18 10	—
Other Receipts	3 7 1	—	3 5 5	—
		214 3 5		147 5 3
Interest	—	144 11 4	—	291 16 9
Miscellaneous Receipts	—	32 12 10	—	9 16 4
Total	—	9,477 7 4	—	7.232 6 8

Expenditure.

—	1897.		1898.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	—	450 14 11	—	427 19 4
Commissioner's Department ...	—	2,364 15 2	—	2,318 10 7
Judicial „ ...	—	595 11 1	—	537 15 7
Police „ ...	—	470 1 7	—	472 13 3
Prisons „ ...	—	216 2 5	—	219 6 2
Medical „ ...	—	480 0 8	—	544 17 0
Paupers	—	281 4 7	—	283 13 3
Education	—	528 3 9	—	635 13 10
Registration and Vaccination ...	—	22 3 2	—	20 16 4
Public Market	—	21 0 0	—	21 0 0
„ Library	—	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
Miscellaneous:—				
Printing	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—
Stationery	42 12 7	—	32 1 0	—
Unforeseen Contingencies ...	92 11 6	—	132 2 10	—
		235 4 1		264 3 10
Post Office	—	530 12 7	—	518 6 8
Lighthouse Department	—	243 0 2	—	263 15 10
Public Works:—				
Department	318 17 2	—	363 11 8	—
Recurrent	1,013 6 6	—	604 7 4	—
Extraordinary	563 11 4	—	286 16 6	—
		1,895 15 0		1,254 15 6
Direct West India Cable Company, Limited.	—	—	—	90 0 0
Special Votes:—				
Cable Celebration	—	—	20 0 0	—
Refund of duties on goods destroyed by fire.	—	—	17 17 3	—
Contribution to Barbados and St. Vincent Hurricane Relief Fund.	—	—	100 0 0	—
				137 17 3
Total	—	8,384 9 2	—	8,061 4 5

Total Revenue and Expenditure for five years, 1894–98.

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue ...	8,840 9 6	7,312 9 5	9,706 19 2	9,477 7 4	7,232 6 8
Expenditure...	7,459 2 3	7,547 0 7	7,382 10 10	8,384 9 2	8,061 4 5

The total of the revenue for 1898 is less by £2,245 0*s.* 8*d.* than the similar total for 1897. It is noticeable that £2,142 16*s.* 2*d.* of this deficiency is under the three heads—Import Duties, Royalty on Salt, and Port Dues, showing how surely the tide of the Dependency's fortunes flows or ebbs according as the conditions for the disposal of salt are favourable or the reverse.

The expenditure of 1898 was less than that of the previous year by £323 4*s.* 9*d.*, the difference being due to a less outlay on Public Works. The figure would have been still smaller, but for the exceptional items for which special votes were taken (£137 17*s.* 3*d.*). A new annual liability of £120 for five years was also assumed, being a payment to the Direct West India Cable Company, recently established here, in respect of a daily supply of news. This subsidy was payable for three quarters of last year, and the total expenditure was thus increased by £90.

The deficit on the year's working was £828 17*s.* 9*d.*, but there still remains from previous years a surplus balance of over £7,000. With care and economy, it is hoped that the figures for 1899 may show a nearer approach to financial equilibrium.

(B.) *Taxation.*

No changes took place during the year under review.

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities.*

There was a balance of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December 1898 of £7,128 16*s.* 2*d.*, as set out in the annexed table :—

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Year ended 31st December 1898.

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 1897...	7,957	13	11

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
REVENUE for 1898 :—		
Customs	2,918 2 11	—
Miscellaneous	4,314 3 9	
		7,232 6 8
		15,190 0 7
EXPENDITURE for 1898 :—		
Departments	4,720 10 1	—
Public Works	891 3 10	—
Miscellaneous	2,449 10 6	
		8,061 4 5
Balance to be carried to 1899	—	7,128 16 2
ASSETS :—		
In Colonial Chest	1,574 17 0	—
* With Crown Agents	340 19 1	—
With New York Agents	333 18 5	—
Advances due	149 19 9	—
Bonds for Import duties	119 11 1	—
Investments, Government funds ...	5,500 0 0	—
Do. Savings Bank do. ...	200 0 0	—
Do. in Jamaica Savings Bank	811 3 8	—
		9,030 9 0

* Includes £200 remittances maturing and in transit.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS—*continued.*

LIABILITIES :—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears of Expenditure—Public Works	7 13 4	—
Jamaica Treasury	145 3 7	—
Miscellaneous (Deposits)	141 15 6	—
Salt Pond Maintenance Fund... ...	239 12 7	—
United Kingdom money orders ...	7 18 10	—
Jamaica do. ...	259 7 11	—
Turks Islands Savings Bank	1,100 1 1	—
		1,901 12 10
Balance of Assets	—	7.128 16 2

(D.) *Public Debt.*

The Dependency has no public debt.

(E.) *Currency.*

Gold, American and British, an occasional Bank of England or Colonial Bank note, with British silver and Jamaica nickel coinage, constitute the currency of the Dependency. Mexican dollars pass to some small extent for purchase at the stores &c., but they are not legal tender, and are not accepted at the Treasury.

(F.) } *Finances of Municipalities or Public Boards.*
(G.) }

There is no municipality and no public board which levies rates or has sole control of any funds.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) *Imports and Exports.*

The dutiable articles imported into the Dependency which contribute over £100 per annum to the Customs revenue, are shown in the following comparative table :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Duty.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flour, wheat...	2,898½ barrels	2,487½ barrels	2,757 11 7	2,422 7 10	543 9 6	466 8 2
Lard	50,982 lbs.	48,308 lbs.	539 4 10	558 9 0	106 4 3	100 12 10
Lumber	289,575 feet	234,666 feet	928 14 0	751 18 4	104 8 10	85 1 3
Meat, salt	139,506 lbs.	119,990 lbs.	1,771 3 1	1,536 4 6	290 12 9	249 19 7
*Spirits	3,165 gallons	2,265 gallons	399 16 4	355 12 7	730 8 9	509 12 7
†Sugar	150,945 lbs.	260,096 lbs.	1,168 17 2	1,873 17 10	410 3 10	322 7 2
Tinned provisions	1,795 packages	2,365 packages.	1,237 10 0	1,136 5 0	123 15 0	113 12 6
Textile fabrics	840 „	587 „	4,603 1 8	3,953 5 10	460 6 2	395 6 7

* The consumption in 1897 was 3,246⅜ gallons.

† „ „ „ 140,121 pounds—in 1898 114,740 pounds.

The following table comprises the chief articles of import on which no duty is payable :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.					
	1897.	1898.	1897.			1898.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Beans and peas - -	1,055 bushels	907 bushels	345	16	0	352	2	9
Bran and oats - -	3,799 packages	2,714 packages	873	0	11	746	9	10
* Coffee - - - -	5,931 lbs.	12,750 lbs.	134	8	7	157	9	6
Confectionery- - -	259 packages	205 packages	245	3	0	211	7	4
Cordage - - - -	155 coils	95 coils	181	3	0	114	1	8
Corn - - - - -	2,141 bushels	1,722 bushels	221	6	5	193	5	1
Crockery and glassware -	288 packages	150 packages	417	8	6	239	14	1
Fish, salt - - -	29,750 lbs.	23,000 lbs.	241	2	8	200	3	4
Fruit and vegetables -	1,426 lots	2,106 lots	977	4	2	1,759	9	5
Government stores - -	534 packages	267 packages	339	2	10	203	7	6
Hay - - - - -	3,328 bales	1,403 bales	596	8	9	220	19	2
Hominy and samp - -	912 packages	587 packages	435	14	10	298	4	7
Jewellery &c. - - -	51 „	43 „	177	7	11	119	1	6
Machinery - - -	60 „	174 „	443	6	2	562	16	0
Meal, corn - - -	795 barrels	728 barrels	318	19	9	326	4	1
Molasses, syrup &c. -	4,924 gallons	4,666 gallons	235	1	0	244	16	10
Mules - - - - -	38	9	702	10	0	150	0	0
Stationery &c. - -	85 packages	92 packages	119	16	8	131	2	4

* Of the coffee imported in 1898, 6,500 lbs. was exported; also the price of coffee from Hayti in 1898 fell very low.

The chief and only considerable article of export is salt, of which there was exported :—

——	Quantity.	Value.			Royalty Paid.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1897	2,236,008 bushels	33,630	5	5	3,260	12	6
In 1898	1,431,850 „	18,701	14	4	2,088	3	8

The total value of the imports and exports for the last 5 years is as follows :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - -	28,525 14 10	26,734 18 0	30,245 4 4	33,239 2 7	27,066 15 0
Exports - -	32,774 5 10	21,687 17 8	31,497 14 5	43,303 15 5	24,810 12 4

Broadly speaking, about seven-ninths of the imports are from, and three-fourths of the exports to, the United States of America.

In explanation of the decrease in the value of imports and exports in 1898, I quote from a previous report on the revenue and expenditure of the past year :—

"The quantity of salt exported was 1,431,850 bushels, which is below the average and greatly below the export of 1897, when the figures were 2,236,008. The export of that year was however an abnormal one, owing to the rush to get salt in to the United States before the coming into operation of the new tariff by which the duty on salt was re-imposed. This occasioned something of a glut of Turks Islands salt in the States, and is the cause to some extent, together with the fact of the re-imposition of the duty and consequent encouragement of the domestic salt trade, of the demand in 1898 having been so unfortunately slack. The Spanish-American war also interfered with trade to some small degree. The fishery salt trade with British North America has kept up moderately well and is a valuable aid to the industry, taking 270,486 bushels, but we have, unfortunately, since 1895 lost the Newfoundland trade. The diminution in the receipts for 1898, as compared with those for 1897, under the heads of Royalty on Salt Exported and Light Dues on Vessels, are respectively £1,173 and £340.

"Import duties show a decrease of £650 on the figure of 1897. A poor salt season with small shipments naturally reduces the employment of labour and the purchasing power of the community generally; hence smaller consumption and fewer importations. Besides this, the shutting down of the West Caicos Fibre Company and stoppage of the supplies which it used to import for consumption in the Caicos Islands, and the fact that since the month of April last, when war was declared, the steamers from New York have, until the present month*, called but once in six weeks instead of once in three weeks as formerly, have both contributed to reduce the amount of supplies brought into the Dependency. Flour, spirits, and lumber are the items between which the diminution is for the most part distributed."

* February.

(B.) *Manufactures.*

There is nothing new to report under this head. There is but one industry, namely, the production of salt from sea-water by solar evaporation. At present the producers are much handicapped by the low price of their commodity in the United States, the result mainly of the re-imposition of the import duty by the last United States tariff and consequent encouragement of the United States domestic salt output, but also to some extent (as to exactly how much opinions differ) of a suicidal policy of underselling. Generally speaking, the condition of the various salinas of the Dependency has decidedly improved of late years, and a much larger quantity of salt could be obtained from them than the present average annual yield, if there were only a market for it.

The development of a very large and hitherto unworked salina has been recently undertaken by one of the most enterprising of the local merchants, who is proceeding steadily with the expensive work of laying out and preparing the ground in spite of the somewhat discouraging existent conditions.

I have in a recent report suggested enquiries being made with a view to the possibility of increasing the export of salt to British North America.

(C.) *Agricultural Industries, &c.*

Agriculture in the Dependency is practically confined to a few scanty provision fields in the Caicos Islands and a few patches of guinea corn, grown chiefly for the fodder afforded by the stalks. The barren nature of the soil, coupled with the absence of rainfall, makes anything else impossible.

(D.) *Land grants and general value of land.*

Seven grants were made in 1898 under the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1896, which Ordinance, however, is only workable so long as the Dependency is able to afford the services of a Colonial surveyor.

There is still a large amount of survey work required to be done. The value of land, other than town lots, is very small.

(E.) *Shipping.*

A table is annexed of the steam and sailing vessels inward and outward during the past two years. The steamers are those of the Clyde line from New York to Dominican ports, at uncertain dates, but about triweekly, which touch at Grand Turk both on the outward and homeward voyages, taking labourers for the Dominican trip to work the cargo, and landing them on return. There is also the monthly steamer of Messrs. Pickford and Black's line from Halifax to Jamaica, which is under contract with this Government to convey the Turks Islands mails.

Sailing Vessels.

Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	241	20,188	252	20,338	238	18,580	242	18,641
Danish	1	52	1	52	—	—	—	—
Dominican	18	173	12	117	10	93	12	113
Dutch	3	315	3	315	2	74	2	74
French	4	714	4	714	3	366	3	366
Haytian	10	264	12	326	25	612	25	612
Nicaraguan	1	996	1	996	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	3	1,733	2	1,134	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—	1	235	1	235
United States	56	34,244	55	33,559	32	18,335	35	20,805
Total	337	58,679	342	57,551	311	38,295	320	40,846
Steamers.								
British	25	14,498	25	14,498	32	28,213	32	28,213
United States	48	91,574	48	91,574	27	53,770	27	53,770
Total	73	106,072	73	106,072	59	81,983	59	81,983

The decrease in the steam shipping is due to the Clyde Company running only one steamer in six weeks to Santo Domingo, from the commencement of the Spanish-American war till the end of the year, instead of two, and in the sailing shipping to the smaller demand for salt.

A comparative statement of total shipping for the last five years is also annexed :—

——	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards ...	126,215	120,037	131,106	164,751	120.278
Outwards ...	125,400	120,087	130,572	163,623	122,829
Total ...	251,615	240,124	261,678	328,374	243,107

These figures do not include men-of-war, of which there have been several (all British) since cable communication was established.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The principal measures passed during the year were :—

Ordinance No. 4 *of* 1898.—To provide for the payment to the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited, of an annual sum in respect of a news supply and for other purposes.

The sum provided is £120 per annum for a period of five years, and the Ordinance fixes the maximum rates to be charged by the Company for messages.

Ordinance No. 8. *of* 1898.—To amend the law relating to quarantine and the boarding of vessels.

This Ordinance repeals the old fashioned Ordinance of 1870, and assimilates the law of quarantine in the Dependency to that of Jamaica.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) *Primary Education.*

A sum of £600 per annum is set aside by Ordinance for the work of education in the Dependency.

There are seven schools, of which five are in the Caicos Islands.

Education is not compulsory, and the main difficulty that has to be contended with is the irregular attendance of children.

The majority of the teachers are trained men from Jamaica, and an inspection is held by an officer of the Jamaica Education Department once in two years.

An inspection was held during 1898 and the report of the condition of the schools was decidedly satisfactory, and showed that there had been appreciable improvement.

(B.) *Secondary Education.*

There is no provision for secondary education. The children of the better class usually obtain their education in Jamaica, the United States, or Canada.

(C.) *Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural Schools.*

Nil.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A, B, C, D.) *Hospitals, Asylums, Poor Houses, Reformatories.*

There are no institutions of this class in the Dependency at the present day, but a portion of the old poorhouse has been set aside as a place where any infectious disease or serious case for operation or otherwise may be placed under the care of an attendant temporarily engaged. It is very rarely required.

Lunatics are sent to the asylum in Jamaica.

(E.) *Savings Banks.*

The Government Savings Bank was opened in 1890. The attached statement shows its condition at the present time :—

Bank.	Number of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To Credit.	
	1897.	189 .	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Grand Turk	99	108	433 11 1	448 18 4	523 10 8	507 11 4	806 4 4	747 11 4
Salt Cay	49	48	34 17 9	13 13 8	55 13 5	23 7 4	59 13 4	49 19 8
Cockburn Harbour ...	27	28	75 18 11	21 16 5	87 9 4	4 5 6	281 14 11	299 5 10
Total	175	184	544 7 9	484 8 5	666 13 5	535 4 2	1,147 12 7	1,096 16 10

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) *Police.*

The police force consists of:—

At Grand Turk—a corporal, three constables, and two district constables.

Salt Cay—one constable and one district constable.

Cockburn Harbour—one constable and one district constable.

The other Caicos Islands—seven district constables.

The total cost of the upkeep of the force in 1898 was £472 13*s.* 3*d.*

(B.) *Prisons.*

The one prison of the Dependency is at Grand Turk. The daily average in prison in 1898 was four. Long sentence prisoners are usually sent to serve their time at Jamaica, but fortunately there are rarely any prisoners of this class.

(C.) *Criminal Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1898 was 195, against 181 in 1897.

Of the offences reported in 1898, 53 were for offences against the person; 3 were for praedial larceny; 22 were for offences against property other than praedial larceny; 117 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the Inferior Courts in 1898 was 121, against 122 in 1897.

These convictions are classified as follows:—30 for offences against the person; 3 for prædial larceny; 5 for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 83 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows :—1 for offences against the person ; 3 for offences against property.

The acquittals were as follows :—In the Inferior Courts 58 ; in the Supreme Court 2.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) *Population.*

The total by the last census, 1891, was 4,744. The registered births from that date up to the end of 1898 have exceeded the registered deaths by 738, so that the population would appear to be increasing. Such increase is, however, discounted by the emigration, chiefly to Hayti and San Domingo, and the population is probably about stationary.

(B.) *Public Health.*

The general state of the public health during 1898 was good, but I observe that the Government medical officers in their reports refer to tubercular disease as being very prevalent in the Dependency. Interesting and exhaustive reports have recently been made on the health conditions at the Caicos Islands by the Government medical officer at that station.

(C.) *Sanitation.*

The Towns and Public Health Ordinance of 1895 gives power to deal with nuisances generally, and provides for the exercise of precautions in case of epidemics, for the cleaning of streets, the regulation of slaughter yards, and other kindred matters.

The sea is handy to all for the carrying away of refuse, and the soil is of a nature that readily absorbs impurities.

(D.) *Climate.*

(1.) The rainfall is small, averaging about 26 inches from year to year.

(2.) The temperature is not excessive, and it is rarely unbearably

hot, save on certain still days which are experienced as a rule in the months of September and October.

Tables of rainfall and temperature are attached :—

RAINFALL.

For the Year 1898 *compared with the average for the previous seven years.*

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	·75	·60	·82	—
February	·70	·82	2·41	5·37
March	·61	·91	1·00	1·47
April	2·73	1·65	5·36	1·93
May	1·57	2·15	2·74	5·20
June	1·48	·64	1·24	4·14
July	·50	·41	1·15	4·06
August	3·03	2·33	1·24	4·10
September... ...	2·10	1·41	·27	5·36
October	4·10	3·10	7·58	6·12
November	·96	·64	·60	1·48
December	1·20	2·35	1·36	4·66
Total inches ...	19·73	17·01	25·77	43·89
Average for 7 years 1891–97	26·65	23·61	19·69	34·00

Temperature.

Month.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
January	82	73	77
February	81	76	78
March	79	75	77
April	81	77	79
May	83	79	80
June	85	82	83
July	86	83	84
August	86	83	84
September	87	80	84
October	85	82	83
November	84	79	81
December	82	77	79

3. The wind is usually equable and blows strongly, the prevailing direction being from the south-east.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The mails are brought to and despatched from the Dependency by a monthly steamer from Halifax, Nova Scotia, under contract, and also by the steamers of the Clyde line from New York tri-weekly. These latter, unfortunately, do not sail on schedule time so that it is not possible to arrange for a regular despatch

from the United Kingdom by that route, but letters that arrive at Halifax soon after the departure of the monthly boat are sent on to New York, and thus usually arrive here some days earlier than they would if they waited at Halifax for the next monthly steamer. By far the larger portion of the mails for the United Kingdom go north by the New York steamers; letters so despatched get to their destination in a shorter time by a week or more than they would by the longer Halifax route.

The new 1*d.* postal rate has been adopted by the Dependency, as also the new parcel post rates.

The Island of Grand Turk is now in telegraphic connection with Bermuda and Jamaica by the cables of the Direct West India Cable Company, which opened its Grand Turk station in January of 1898.

There is no telephone service.

IX.—Military Forces and Expenditure.

Nil.

X.—General Observations.

1. The one event of importance during 1898 was the landing of the telegraph cable, by which the Dependency is now placed in communication with the outside world, and relieved from that sense of complete isolation which was formerly such a feature of life here.

2. The breakwater at Salt Cay was completed during the year, the total cost from commencement in 1895 having been £970 10*s.* 5*d.* The protection afforded by this work to the boats and small vessels during heavy weather at the Cay is a source of much satisfaction to the people there.

3. A change took place in the office of Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. J. Bayldon Walker being promoted to the Chief Justiceship of St. Vincent, and his place being taken by Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, police magistrate of that Island.

4. I am pleased to be able to report that the sisal hemp industry at East Caicos is doing very fairly well; its management has been good and businesslike, and the ground selected for the cultivation eminently suitable. The second cultivation—that at West Caicos—has unfortunately proved a failure.

5. The general condition of the Dependency is not so bright at the present time as has been the case during the last few years, owing to the lowered value of its one staple commodity, salt. As yet, the difference is not so very noticeable, the effect of the recent prosperous period being not yet wiped out, but, if present conditions continue to obtain for any lengthened time, and especially if they be coupled with anything like a slackening demand, I fear the little place will suffer appreciably, and some re-casting of the schedule of revenue may not improbably be called for. The chief hope is that the trade with British North America may increase, that being the only alternative market to the United States, as far as can be seen.

6. There are no other matters calling for special remark.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Commissioner.

Grand Turk,

4th May, 1899.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 1-3, Great St. Thomas Apostle, E.C.

1899.

Date Due

FOR LIBRARY USE ONLY

University of Alberta Library
0 1620 0080 6867